Wednesday, October 17, 2012 ★★ 14 sections / Vol. 37 / No. 311 P18 | Mobile Alert: Text INQ ON BREAKING to 4407 | www.inquirer.net Twitter: @inquirerdotnet

Senate sin tax bill in limbo

UNEASY RIDERS Top officers of the MILF are peace warriors on the bus for their first ever visit to Malacañang for Monday's historic signing of a preliminary peace agreement with the government. Among them are MILF chief negotiator Mohagher Iqbal (at left), vice chair Alem Sulaiman, political affairs chief Ghadzali Jaafar and central committee member Omar Pasigan.

Drilon takes over Recto's committee

By Cathy C. Yumaan

THE SO-CALLED Recto report that proposes additional taxes for tobacco and liquor products drastically lower than what Malacañang wants is now in limbo.

Sen. Franklin Drilon, acting chair of the Senate ways and means committee, will call a meeting of panel members today to decide whether the report will be retained or brought back to the committee.

SENATE A20

Enrile slams US-based antismoking lobby / A26 • **Ilocos farmers, leaders speak up on Recto's sin tax bill** / A12

'Charlie's angel' Pinoy slur stirs cyber storm

By Ruben Nepales
LA Correspondent

LOS ANGELES—A random comment made by Hollywood actress Lucy Liu on "The Late Show with David Letterman" has sparked a debate in cyberspace.

Did the Chinese-American film and TV star ("Charlie's Angels," "Ally McBeal") intend to insult an entire country when she said she was careful not to look a "little Filipino"?

Netizens weighed in on the Inquirer.net website (www.inquirer.net) and Twitter account (@inq line).

One posted: "Maybe she meant she might look like Pokwang." (Filipino comedienne Pokwang has claimed that she is Liu's long-lost twin.)

Another pointed out: "I'm single (chinky-eyed) but kayamanggi (brown-skinned).

CHARLIE'S A11

From coco water to vodka to gum—all set for Jonas brods

By Pocholo Concepcion
Entertainment

TWENTY-EIGHT black towels, six tetra packs of coconut water, six packs of mint-flavored chewing gum, four packs of low-fat string cheese, a bottle of Grey Goose Vodka, a case of Coors Light beer, and a dressing room with its air-conditioner thermostat set at 72 degrees fahrenheit.

These are just some of the things that the popular three-member American boy band Jonas Brothers want to see in their dressing room when they perform on Oct. 19 at SM Mall of Asia Arena in Pasay City and

FROM COCO: A11

Gov't peace panel seeks support of Congress

By Christian V. Esguerra

A DAY after the historic signing of a framework agreement, the government panel yesterday hoped to the House of Representatives to formally seek congressional support for the peace accord with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

Chief government negotiator Marvic Leonen spent two hours briefing House members on the details of what he described as "the mother agreement," and emphasized the importance of congressional action for the success of the peace process.

Presidential peace adviser Teresita Deles said the peace process "cannot move forward without having this clear congr

GOV'T/ A21

Gov't, MILF panels go back to work • Washington welcomes PH-MILF peace deal • Binay, Honasan to Misuari: Shut up, give peace a chance / A21

Leyte gov to head DOE; Almendras to Palace

By Michael Lim Ubac in Manila and Joy Gabieta in Tacloban City

LEYTE Gov. Jericho "Jun" Petilla will be named energy secretary, replacing Rene Almendras, in a minor revamp of President Aquino's 2-year-old Cabinet, Budget Secretary Florencio Abad confirmed yesterday.

"A formal announcement will be made soon," Abad said when reached by phone. He did not provide other details.

Another Malacañang official, who requested anonymity because he was not authorized to

LEYTE: A20

Church offers free weddings, veils, rings, cords but please return after rites

By Philip C. Tubeza

GET HITCHED in church. Even the wedding ring is free.

With half of Filipinos shunning church weddings, the Catholic Church is offering free wedding ceremonies—with free wedding rings, veils and cords to boot.

But no bathing suits, please, a Catholic private-sist

CHURCH: A11

4 sunsets, 4 sunrises on planet with 4 suns

WASHINGTON—An international team of amateur and professional astronomers on Monday announced the discovery of a planet whose skies are lit up by four suns—the first reported case of such a phenomenon.

The planet, located about 5,000 lightyears from Earth, has been dubbed PH1 in honor of Planet Hunters, a program led by Yale University in the United States which enlists volunteers to look for signs of new planets.

PH1 is orbiting two suns, and is turn is orbited by a second distant pair of suns. Only six planets are known to orbit two stars, according to researchers, and none of those are orbited by other distant stars.

"Extraordinary planets are the extremes of planet formation," said Yale's Meg Schwamb, the lead author of a paper that was presented on Monday at the annual meeting of the Division for Planetary Sciences of the American Astronomical Society in Nevada.

4 SUNSETS/ A11

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

6/49		
1/6	4	31
2/6	22	8
3/6	17	3
SUERTRES SP		
1/3	9	7
2/3	8	6
3/3	8	4

SIX DIGIT (Tuesday)	
	0 9 5 0 9 7
4/42 LUZ MIN	
	5 10 13 19 29 39
	P10,197,539.80
SUPERLOTTO 6/49	
	6 17 41 45 47 49
	P20,151,824.40

LOTTO 7/42 from 6/49 LOTTO, result is 4/42. P1.50 above

PDEA chief sacked but doesn't know it

By Michael Lim Ubac

PULLED OUT of retirement, Arturo Cacdac Jr., former Philippine National Police (PNP) deputy chief for administration, was yesterday sworn in as the new chief of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) to immediately replace Jose Gutierrez Jr.

Even as Cacdac was taking his oath before Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa yesterday, PDEA spokesperson Derrick Carreon denied that the beleaguered Gutierrez had resigned amid reports implicating him in alleged irregularities.

"That report is baseless. In fact, I have just contacted him on his mobile phone. I asked him if he had resigned. He said 'no' categorically. That's why it puzzles me whenever these report come from," Carreon said.

"I even saw him (yesterday) morning at the PDEA office," said Carreon, adding that he was not aware that Cacdac had been tasked to replace Gutierrez's replacement.

Deputy presidential spokesperson Abigail Valte belatedly confirmed Gutierrez's resignation and Cacdac's appointment at 6:30 p.m., when radio reports had already reported it.

The gaps on further details were as reporters queried her concerning reports that Gutierrez had been asked to resign amid the controversy surrounding the Sept. 6 sacking of his deputy, Gerhea Gudapan, without his head a falling out.

Contacted by phone yesterday, Cacdac confirmed that he had already taken his oath.

GUTIERREZ

"I was provided a copy of my appointment (papers) dated Oct. 11," he said. He read to reporters from his appointment papers, which said: "Pursuant to provisions of existing law, you are hereby appointed director general of PDEA vice Jose Gutierrez Jr."

He said it was a "great honor to be trusted by the President."

To combat the drug menace, Cacdac said his first duty as the new PDEA director general was to coordinate with the agencies that would help PDEA—the National Bureau of Investigation, Bureau of Customs, the PNP and even the Armed Forces.

"We need to help each other. What I had in (the case) for a (while) approach to counter the drug problem, we've used seven consolidation, coordination and cooperation to find solutions to problems related to drugs," he said.

Cacdac, the second most senior official of the PNP retired last Oct. 11, triggering a top-level revamp in the police force.

He opted to leave the service before the mandatory retirement age of 56. He will already cut "semi-fat status" on Sept. 5.

Cacdac is a member of the Philippine Military Class of 1979.

With a report from Marlon Ramos

Comelec to ax more groups

By Jocelyn R. Uy

AMID SHOWING scarce among party-list groups, the Commission on Elections (Comelec) yesterday said the number will be limited to 80 slots in the 2013 election would remain for now.

That limit, however, could become the decision will be coming out soon," said Commissioner Christian Robinson Jr. A committee report recommending the limit was first aired by Commissioner Akbayan and chairperson of the former's party conference in Manila.

Last week, Amihbayan, a left-leaning youth group, filed a petition before the Comelec, asking the poll body to limit the number of party-list slots to 80 from the current 100. The rules provisions was the National Union of Students of the Philippines.

Citing the appointment to government posts of several Akbayan members, including Ronald Llamas, President Aquino's presidential political affairs adviser, the petition said Akbayan had ceased to represent the marginalized sector, thus it should be disqualified from the election.

Confrontation

In a press conference in Baguio yesterday, Akbayan, was explaining why the organization should not be disqualified from the 2013 election when some members of Amihbayan barged in and chanted "Disqualify Akbayan, take a party list" while the briefing was going on.

Members of the Akbayan, in fact, shouted "KSP (Kabataan ng Pasismo)" and "tuta pulitika."

In an interview, Robinson said it was just a matter of time before the Comelec en banc would be moving to strike out Akbayan and other party-list groups whose chances in the 2013 congressional election hang in the balance.

He estimated that the Comelec would finish handing down its decision on disqualified party-list groups by the end of the month.

"The problem is we don't really want to rush up to set dates on deliberate," said the Comelec chief in explaining why the poll body was announcing delisted party-list on a piecemeal basis.

He explained that the first two announcement involved party-list groups that were automatically voted to be disqualified by the Comelec en banc. It would soon come out with the list of groups ineligible to participate in the election that garnered 3-1 and 4-1 votes from the commission members.

Dissenting opinions

"We can't issue decisions on these groups immediately because we also have to wait for the dissenting opinions," he said.

The Comelec will announce last those groups that got a 3-2 votes. Newly appointed commissioner Grace Padaca yesterday agreed to break the tie after reviewing the petitioned documents, according to Robinson.

In the case of Akbayan, the Comelec en banc has yet to vote on whether it should be retained or dropped from the 2013 elections. "It is still under study," said Robinson. But was also his reply to Akbayan Rep. Walden Bello when the latter called him up earlier to ask about Akbayan's status.

16M Pinoys are malnourished

By Tarra Quismundo and Aya G. Ros

THE NUMBER of undernourished Filipinos increased by two million in the past two years, according to a study conducted by international food and agricultural organizations.

"The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2012," a global assessment of nutrition levels, showed that 16 million Filipinos are considered undernourished from 2010 to present.

This figure represents an increase from the 14 million recorded between 2007 and 2009, and also indicates a rate in malnutrition rates out of the total population: 17 percent in the past two years, up from 15.9 percent in the earlier assessment period.

The study, jointly undertaken by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFad) and released to commemorate World Food Day yesterday, found that one in eight people, or 870 million all over the world, "do not get enough food to be healthy and lead an active life."

Drilon notes spike in NFA debt in last months of GMA

By Norman Bordadora

SEN. FRANKLIN Drilon yesterday noted a spike in the indebtedness of the National Food Authority (NFA) in the last months of the Arroyo administration.

In a news briefing following a hearing of his committee on finance on the budget of the Department of Agriculture's P90 billion budget for 2013, Drilon raised the continuous burden of the NFA on the national government.

"In June of 2010 when the Aquino government took over, the total liability of NFA stood at P170.6 billion. This has been reduced, as of today, to P147.4 billion, but it was more than as of the end of December 2009, the total liability of the NFA was only P147.3 billion," Drilon told reporters.

Drilon said that in six months, from July 1 to June 30 of 2010, the liability of the NFA increased to P170.6 billion, "an 44 increase in six months of P20.1 billion, which is the same increase in the whole year from 2009 to 2009."

"What is significant about the first six months of 2010? It was during the election period when the debt of the NFA ballooned by more than P20 billion in the first six months," Drilon said.

"This conclusion is by a burden that this administration is here to carry. [Agricultural Secretary Proceso Alcala] has answered us that is still [to addressed]," he added.

Asked if a graft case is in order, Drilon said he wouldn't make such a conclusion yet.

"I'm just saying that there was a huge increase in the procurement from abroad.

Justice asked to inhibit self from petition vs cybercrime law

BECAUSE of the libel suit he had brought against journalist Beatriz Oseguera-Ang, Supreme Court Associate Justice Presbitero Velasco Jr. is being asked to inhibit from the cybercrime law case, on which he has been reportedly assigned to write the decision.

Journalists led by the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP) filed a case before the high court last Monday seeking the "voluntary recusation" of Velasco from taking part in the deliberations on the consolidated 15 petitions challenging the controversial Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012, saying that Velasco's previous use of libel as a complaint against a member of the press "does not sit well with the cold neutrality of a dispassionate judge."

In their motion to inhibit, the journalists said the high court, in its en banc session last Oct. 2, had given Velasco the job of writing the decision on the case.

The high tribunal last week suspended for four months the implementation of the new cybercrime law while it hears the petitions against it, and set oral arguments for next January.

The law has been opposed by persons from netizens, journalists, academics and social activists because of its controversial provision criminalizing online libel, punishable with imprisonment.

Accuser

They said that Velasco cannot be allowed to participate in the high court deliberations and resolution of the petitions against the cyberlibel provision as he had filed a libel suit against Ang.

"It is public knowledge and is intended by a matter of judicial knowledge that Associate Justice Presbitero Velasco Jr. filed two libel cases against newspaper-based journalist, bestselling author and editor-at-large of Inquirer, Beatriz Oseguera-Ang, before the regional trial court of Manila for libel," they said.

They noted that Velasco had sought in the 15 counts of libel against Ang for the counts had reduced these to two charges based on the fact that the offending article was carried in two publications and not on the number of days they were left standing on the website of ABS-CBN news online.

Velasco filed in March 2010 a P1-million libel suit against Ang in connection with her November 2009 news story posted on ABS-CBNNews.com/Newsbreak. For 12 days where she had alleged that the associate justice had used his influence over local officials in Mountain Province to support the non-provisional bid of his son.

Velasco has since withdrawn the case but the NUJP continues to insist that he should inhibit anyway.

It argued that Velasco was the "only living associate justice to have used the provision on libel under the Revised Penal Code against a member of the press" and pointed out that he "enjoyed a position of ascendancy over judges as well as prosecutors, and that the suits were filed in connection with stories that can inform...a question that is directly posed by the 15 petitions challenging the cybercrime law."

"That Justice Velasco has used his Presidential Gang for libel clearly shows his personal disposition on the issue," it said.

Velasco's bringing a criminal libel suit against a member of the press for an entire publication "indicated that he sees nothing inherently wrong about libel, in general, or cyberlibel, in particular," the petitioners said.

They added the high court would do all the case and get another member of the high court to preserve.

The petitioners also included the Philippine Press Institute, Center for Media and Responsibility, Melinda Quintos-de Jesus, Bonner and Carmencita Paunan and Alleyn Almoro, among others. (DONE) with Jeannette

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Military VIP status feared for Palparan, Kapunan

By Marlon Ramos

FULL logistical support granted Jovito Palparan Jr. given the same VIP treatment by the military as is recently "out of order" fugitive retired Air Force colonel who is a key suspect in the notorious Olalia murder case?

The family of the slain labor leader, Rolando Olalia, yesterday denounced the continued detention at the Fort Bonifacio Army headquarters of Edgardo "Red" Kapunan, one of the alleged masterminds in the 26-year-old murder who reportedly surrendered to the military last week after almost three decades of being on the lam.

Main suspects

The murder of Olalia and his driver, Leonor Alay-ay, is believed to have been a consequence of the violent power struggle that followed the first Edsa People Revolution. The main suspects in the killing were soldiers and officers belonging to the Reform the Armed Forces Movement (RAM), a key participant in the people's uprising that brought down the dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1986 and which attempted to grab power by launching several violent coup against the Cory Aquino government.

Kapunan, one of the 13 RAM leaders and security chief charged with the murder who managed to elude arrest for almost 20 years, reportedly surrendered last Oct. 9 and is now home in military custody since, as progressive clan the Olalia family has protested as illegal as the law provides that suspected criminals must be booked by the police and held in civilian jails.

Irregular

Lawyer Edre Olalia, a human rights lawyer who is a cousin of the murdered labor leader, yesterday reiterated that Kapunan's continued detention at the Army headquarters in Fort Bonifacio was highly irregular as it was not covered by any court order.

He said Kapunan, a founding member of the RAM, was "staying home at (the) military hospital instead of a regular civilian detention jail."

The lawyer expressed concern that the fugitive Palparan, tagged by activists as a "berdugo" (butcher) for his alleged involvement in the disappearance and murder of several leftist activists, would receive similar treatment when he emerges from Kuratong deleso Mongcopa

ATTENTION: CLASSIFIEDS ADVERTISERS INQUIRER

French PM arriving Friday

FRENCH Prime Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault is set to arrive on Friday, a historic first official visit by a top French leader since Manila and Paris established diplomatic ties 65 years ago.

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said yesterday that Ayrault will arrive in Manila with a 130-member delegation, including ministers, members of parliament and businessmen, for a three-day visit.

Prime Minister Ayrault's official discourse only represents a milestone event in Philippine-French relations. More importantly, it sends a strong signal that France has taken serious notice of the positive developments in the country, and is ready to wantonly engage the Philippines as a vibrant and dynamic partner," the DFA said in a statement.

The visit "will in turn, renewed dynamism in our bilateral ties and prospect our partnership to greater heights," the DFA said. France was among the first countries to recognize the presidency of the late President Corazon Aquino following the 1986 People Power revolution.

During the visit, Ayrault will meet with President Aquino to discuss bilateral, regional and multilateral issues.

He will also visit Cebu to underscore the start of a public-assigned project partly funded by the French government's development arm Agence Francaise de Developpement.

The French leader's visit is also expected to boost bilateral economic ties between the two countries, as key businessmen from France will get in touch local business leaders at a Philippine-French Business Forum on Oct. 20.

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Corrections

IN THE OCT. 6 ISSUE, an Agence Presse Nationale story on Page A12 "Coast Guard wants review of Boracay safety measures"...erroneously referred to the island of Boracay as a resort. Boracay is an island resort.

IN THE OCT. 12 ISSUE, a News story on Page A20- "Another Mabinay boy acquitted"...erroneously stated that Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency officers Jesar Dumalisil was interrogated following the arrest of Richard Bodiet and Jorge Joseph in posh Ayala Alabang Village in Muntinlupa City. It was another Alabang boy" Joseph Swann...not Dumalisil—who was exempted.

IN THE OCT. 14 ISSUE, a Sunday Bizarre on Page B2.1..."12 kids, eight businesses, and no helpers"—erroneously referred to Puerto Princesa City and the island of Boracay as provinces.

IN THE OCT. 15 ISSUE, a story on the Ground Front on Page...."[He] is ready for face-off with zombieboy"—erroneously referred to Julio de Lima as the wife of Luis Manzano. Dr. Lima is the wife of Jose Maria Xiao. Julius Babby with a Cristina Ledesma.

The same story erroneously identified Red Rudolf Valdez and Congressman Biling as separate individuals. Congressman Biling was the alias used by Valdez, who once headed the Communist Party of the Philippines and its military arm, the New People's Army.

Readers may notify reports regarding the correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague Street, Makati City, fax no. 897-8530, e-mail address dayde@inquirer.com.ph.

The Daily Gospel

Wednesday - October 17, 2012
19th Week in Ordinary Time
Ignatius of Antioch

1st Reading Gal 5:18-25

But when you are led by the Spirit you are not under the law.

We know what works issue from the flesh: fornication, impurity and shamelessness, idol worship and sorcery, hatred, jealousy and rage, desire, party ambition, division, factions and envy, drinking bouts, orgies and the like. I again say to you what I have already said. Those who do these things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

But the fruit of the Spirit is charity, joy and peace, forbearance, understanding of others, kindness and fidelity, gentleness and self-control. Be such things there is no law to punish or advocate. Those who belong to Christ Jesus crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

If we live by the Spirit, let us live in a spirit and way.

Gospel Luke 11:42-46

Jesus said, "A woe to you, Pharisees, for the bought you give a tenth of all, including rue and rue and the other herbs, but you neglect justice and the love of God. This ought to be practiced, without neglecting the other. A curse is on you, Pharisees, for you love the best seats in the synagogue and to be greeted in the marketplace. A curse is on you for you are like tombstones of the dead which one hardly be seen, people don't notice them and make themselves unclean by walking on them."

Then a teacher of the Law spoke up and said, "Master, when you speak like this, you insult us, too." And Jesus answered, "A curse on you, too, for you load men with burdens hard to carry, but you yourselves don't even lift a finger to help them."

Reflection

In the silence of love, everything gets sweet. Divine silence breeds message of the world's greatest teachers. But love can be extremely arduous, and the anger—hard to gain insight. For other writers the same passage is spared, there is nothing in it or there are final substance. Lust, unfaithfulness, the will to possess... It must be the study and struggle of a lifetime to see how to love.

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'Joma' rejects faceoff, says Enrile's a liar

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LUCENA CITY—Self-exiled Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) founder Jose Maria Sison on Sunday accused Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile of lying in his newly published book, "Juan Ponce Enrile: A Memoir," to cover up his role during the infamous martial law period.

Like the rampant dictator Enrile engages in systematic lying in whatever writings the scandal-ridden regime and chuckling it of the gross and systematic human rights violations that it committed against the Filipino people," Sison said in a statement.

The CPP founder and now consultant of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP), peace panel said the only truth in Enrile's memoir was "his admission that he is a bastard."

In his memoir, Enrile said Sison ordered he was born out of wedlock.

"In his twisted mind, he boasts of a macabre ability to do anything in order to obtain power and wealth," Sison said.

In a separate statement, the information office of the Cristobal-led NDFP slammed Enrile's challenge to go face to face with Sison and accused leaders of Enrile's former elite so-called "Grupo Cacique."

"Enrile's challenge for an interpersonal organization to face him in a duel is such a mockery of democracy and tended in its favor," the NDFP said in a statement sent by Rich de Leon, executive director of the NDFP information office.

The NDFP argued that the political organization Enrile wanted to confront could not submit themselves to a commission "that has refused to render justice to the victims of human rights violations under martial law" and prosecuted indemnification of the victims pro-a US state division.

Its leader, Enrile, who was the defense secretary of deposed President Ferdinand Marcos during martial law, dared Sison and only Nilo de Leon, NDFP spokesperson, Satur Ocampo to a confrontation before the independent commission, respectively, being planned by President Aquino that would probe violations of martial law victims in search of the truth behind the dark years of Marcos rule.

Enrile maintained a faceoff where he and the NDFP leaders would debate on the merits of the Liberal Party, among other issues.

Enrile said he was compelled to issue the challenge to the Sison-led recruiting martial law would leave their claims after his book drew backlash for some alleged unrealistic concepts.

Sison noted that the accusation against him and the CPP as the supposed perpetrators of the Plaza Miranda bombing was dismissed by the Manila prosecutors office on March 2, 1994.

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Coast Guard chief defies Sandigan

DESPITE a Sandiganbayan ruling ordering the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) to impose a 90-day preventive suspension on Philippine Coast Guard Commandant Vice Admiral Ted Ong, Edmund Tan is not worried with a pending graft case, the PCG head is still reporting for work at the agency headquarters in Port Area, Manila.

Tan's temporary replacement has yet to be named by the DOTC, of which the Coast Guard is an attached agency.

It was Tan who welcomed last Monday visiting United States Coast Guard Vice Admiral who are participating in a joint maritime law enforcement development course being conducted by the US Import Customs and Border Security Office.

The Philippines is among at least 99 countries world-wide supporting the US-led crackdown on the Proliferation Security Initiative, which calls for effective measures against the development and sale of weapons of mass destruction.

In an Oct. 8 ruling, the Sandiganbayan's 4th Division denied Tan's motion for reconsideration seeking the recall of the suspension order.

Mandatory

It said that under the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act, the suspension of an accused public official is mandatory and not discretionary upon the court once it has determined the charges are valid.

In denying Tan's motion for reconsideration, the court said he merely rehashed arguments that had already been passed upon and squarely rejected by the court in its earlier resolutions.

Tan, appointed as PCG chief by President Benigno Aquino III on Jan. 24, has repeatedly denied the accusations of wrongdoing.

The graft case stemmed from a complaint filed by businessman Benjaldo Chua Jr. who accused Tan of causing him undue injury by detaining the shipment of iron ore in 2007, which resulted in his having to pay docking penalties amounting to P928,000.

Tan, who was at the time chief of the PCG Visayas Area Command, had detained the ship LCT Euphoria that was transporting Chua's iron ore cargo on the basis of an injunction order reportedly issued by a court in Iligan City.

He also allegedly raised questions about the ship's equipment and circumvented shipping.

The Ombudsman said that Tan had "committed the act of... in relation to duty and taking advantage thereof, through manifest partiality, evident bad faith or gross inexcusable negligence, did then and there willfully and unlawfully cause injury to the Government of China" by preventing a fertilizer vessel... carry out taxiing or... the iron ore cargo.

Jerry E. Esplanada

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Padaca asks court to postpone arraignment on graft raps

By Cynthia D. Balana

NEW ELECTION Commissioner Grace Padaca yesterday sought the postponement of her arraignment in the Sandiganbayan on the graft and malversation charges filed against her when she was governor of Iloilo.

In an urgent motion, Padaca asked the antigraft court's Fifth Division to defer the charges until the Supreme Court shall have resolved a demurrer on her pending motion for certiorari which challenged the information filed against her by the Office of the Ombudsman.

The Ombudsman earlier denied her motion for reconsideration and upheld the finding of probable cause in Ombo Ilen. The Sandiganbayan then issued a warrant for her arrest in May.

On Oct. 4, Padaca surrendered and posted consolidated bail of P200,000 for the graft charge and P40,000 for the malversation rap. Bail setting upon the arrest warrants and granting the antigraft court to set her arraignment for Oct. 16.

Later, it came out that the bail money had come from President Benigno Aquino III himself, after he appointed Padaca to the Commission on Elections early this month.

In 2008 Batasan Magungunu senator, Padaca was charged with graft for awarding in a nonpermanent organization in 2006 a contract to manage a P25-million credit facility for rice farmers without a public bidding.

In her defense, she said a bidding was not required for the project and that the government did not suffer any damage from the deal.

Padaca said she was not as difficult-ened by the charges and expressed confidence that she would be vindicated.

In her motion, she said it was well established that the principle of judicial courtesy entails the suspension by a court of proceedings before it, "where there is a strong probability that the issues before the higher court would be rendered moot and moot and academic as a result of the continuation of the proceedings in the lower court of origin."

SC upholds Sereno TRO vs Comelec

By Christine O. Avendaño

THE SUPREME Court yesterday affirmed Chief Justice Ma. Lourdes Sereno's issuance of a temporary restraining order stopping the Commission on Elections (Comelec) from canvassing votes for Mayor Emmanuel Maliksi, a partisan of President Benigno Aquino III in the Cavite City polls.

In its regular en banc session, the high court "unanimously confirmed" the TRO Sereno issued last Oct. 15, which put on hold the Comelec order against Maliksi. On Sept. 14, Comelec declared Maliksi's opponent Jesus Indino the May 2010 mayoralty race. Homer Saguisag, as the duly elected mayor of the city.

In a statement, acting Supreme Court public information officer chief Atty. Richard Odoy-Comes said Sereno had issued the TRO "in response to and after careful study of the written request of the same date by the members in charge of the said case, a copy of which was furnished by the members of the court." Comes, who did not identify the associate justice in charge of the case.

"Thus, there is no truth at all to allegations that the chief justice acted on her own and was influenced by political pressure in issuing the TRO," Comes said.

Guerra was referring to reports quoting Saguisag's wife, questioned Sereno's issuance of the TRO favoring Maliksi.

Saguisag-wife said the other day that Sereno was pressured to act on the Comelec order by invoking her authority to issue a TRO. His lawyers quoted ousted Chief Justice Renato Corona as saying that a chief justice can only invoke such authority in emergency situations.

Sereno had been criticized for not invoking the same authority in the petitions against the Cybercrime Prevention Act, which chose this because it made online libel a cybercrime punishable with imprisonment. The high court had since stopped the implementation of the law in the meantime and had set oral arguments in January next year.

Saguisag's camp yesterday said it respected the high court's confirmation of the TRO but disagreed with it.

"The Supreme Court has spoken, and thus while we disagree with the confirmation of the temporary restraining order in GR. No. 205033 (Maliksi vs. Comelec), we respect the same, and I have advised our client Mayor Homer Saguisag that we will have recourse to other legal avenues in this case," said Saguisag's lawyer-husband Ignacio.

Ignacio said they were not deterred that the high court stopped the implementation of the controversial cybercrime law, which "is an independent Constitutional body bears a heavy presumption of regularity in its decisions, in a manner that pertains to the particular competence of the Comelec, that is, the right of the people to choose their elected leaders."

Yesterday's en banc session was attended by nine of the 14 justices, including Sereno. Those absent were Associate Justices Antonio Carpio, Arturo Brion, Martin del Castillo, Jose Perez and Bienvenido Reyes. Carpio and Perez were on sedition leave while Brion and Del Castillo were on personal leave. Reyes, on the other hand, is in Geneva, Switzerland, on an official travel.

Morato to undergo surgery, seeks bail

By Jerry E. Esplanada and Cynthia D. Balana

FORMER Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) Director Manuel L. Morato will undergo heart bypass surgery shortly upon the recommendation of his doctors at St. Luke's Medical Center in Quezon City, where he is under hospital arrest on plunder charges.

Morato, who is in the custody of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), yesterday told the Inquirer in the afternoon "would be immediate because according to my doctors I have clogged vessels and a mental valve."

"My heart is in a very bad condition. It is functioning less than 30 percent," he said.

At the same time, Morato's lawyer asked the Sandiganbayan to allow him to post bail for his plunder case filed against him in connection with the alleged misappropriation of P366 million of the PCSO's intelligence funds when he was a director.

In a 34-page motion for bail filed before lawyer Charlie Del Mundo said the evidence against him in the nonbailable crime was almost nil or, in the very least, weak, that he was not motivated by wanton malice to commit a felony.

He told the court he was not a flight risk, considering that he was 70 years old, visually impaired for being totally blind in one eye and also suffering from chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder (COPD).

"Since personal liberty is guaranteed by the Constitution is at stake, it is but natural that the person in whose favor there is a presumption should be free to exercise that constitutional right of confinement or detention in the meantime that his case is being heard," he said.

Aside from Morato, nine others, including former president and now Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, have been charged with plunder in the Sandiganbayan's Fifth Division for the alleged misuse of PCSO intelligence funds during the Arroyo administration.

In court manager, Morato said, "For your information, my medical examination leading to the final one yesterday the coronary angiogram."

"The procedure went well but the result was terrible. My doctors told me my heart is in very bad condition. I was told that I had this condition. I did right to go to the hospital, the way I felt that morning of Oct. 4," he said.

Morato was transferred yesterday "from my room on the fourth floor to the cardiac section while awaiting surgery."

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Want a US visa? No secrets, please

By Tara Quinsumbo

WANT A visa to the United States? No secrets, just tell the truth.

Cracking down on fraudulent visa applications proved to be the latest thing in Manila yesterday launched a public service campaign that aims to prevent honest-to-goodness US visa applicants and deter the practice of employing visa fixers to obtain an approval.

The embassy's Consular Fraud Prevention Unit's campaign "Walang Shortcut. The correct" hopes to stop public reliance on fixers who promise sure approval of visa applications using "certain formulas."

"The campaign aims to debunk popular myths that exist about applying for US visas, and urges the public to be aware of fraud by seeking more information and reporting suspected fraud to the US Embassy's official website, travel.state.gov," the US Embassy said in a statement yesterday.

Ilocos farmers, leader speak up on Recto's sin tax bill: Acceptable

CANDON CITY – The leader of tobacco farmers in northern Luzon, Sen. Ralph Recto's creation of the tax measure on cigarettes and alcoholic beverages is acceptable because it will benefit tobacco growers in Ilocos Sur and other tobacco-growing provinces.

Ramon Calimlim, president of the National Federation of Tobacco Growers and Cooperatives Inc., said his group was supporting Recto's proposal of a lower revised tax rate on tobacco products.

But Recto, chair of the Senate ways and means committee, withdrew the committee report on the tax cut bill on Monday following Recto's criticisms, especially that farmers and health officials who said his version of the bill slashed the projected revenue that would be collected from the tax measure.

He presented the Senate with what he described as a "reasonable, realistic and responsible" version of a tobacco bill on Monday.

Under Recto's report, the measure would raise only P35 billion in additional tax revenues, very below the government's projection of P60 billion.

Calimlim said Recto's proposal was acceptable because this would not impose much on the selling price of tobacco leaves and thus not farm livelihood.

Ilocos Sur produces at least 40 percent of the Virginia tobacco supply in the country.

"That's what we wanted. We just need to be assured that our vested and lot should changed because it would affect our livelihood," said Calimlim.

Former Deputy Speaker Eric Singson, who represented Ilocos Sur's second district, said he was proposing a compromise version, based on the measure's House version, to ease Pinoy billers.

Singson, also a former senate vice chair of the House ways and means committee, wanted to collect P15 billion each from the sales of cigarettes and liquor.

"It will ensure that the government will attain its objectives in raising taxes for sin products and program," he said.

He said cigarette and tobacco products should not incur the burden of the tax increase because tobacco farmers, most of them based in northern Luzon, would suffer. Leonardo Bellen Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon

From coco water to vodka to gum—all set for Jonas brods

From page A1

on Oct. 20 on the Newsstand Cubao lobby.

Opening the shows is San Francisco-born soprano-singer Anna Maria Perez de Tagle, a granddaughter of legendary Filipino singer TV/film actress and recording artist Sylvia La Torre.

The requested shows are contained in the provisions of the Jonas Brothers' performance contract, sent by its management to concert promoters handling the group's seventh Asian and European tour that kicks off in Manila.

Kevin, Joe and Nick

Also on the long list of perks inked: the group wants its two dressing rooms new 21 bottles of iced cold mineral water per day, drinking water, specified as "Smart Water as Fiji or Evian," six bottles of Volvic Energy, an imported drink containing coconut-similar to local brands Red Bull and Cobra; six bottles of G2 flavoured Gatorade flavors.

Three packs of Lacoste Pocket objects Bench Shape, six small cans of pineapple juice, six small bottles of apple juice, two bags of sour, unsalted almonds, two bags of sweet, honey almonds, one tray of fresh fruits again, bounced with dip, and one bowl of fresh snacks.

The group—composed of brothers Kevin, Joe and Nick Jonas—broke into the entertainment scene when it signed a major label record deal in 2004 on the basis of two demo songs by Nick, who was originally being groomed for a solo career by his father, Kevin Jonas Sr.

Brothers records sold

From its four albums—"It's About Time" (2006), "Jonas Brothers" (2007), "A Little Bit Longer" (2008), and "Lines, Vines and Trying Times" (2009)—the group has sold 8 million records worldwide.

The brothers have become even more famous as actors, starting with appearances stage-together and returns Brian Levels in "Camp Rock," a made-for-TV original film under Disney Channel.

Other films it suffice in regard reportedly "certified The Hits" premiere in 2008—making "Camp Rock 2" the third highest-rated movie on Channel's Original Movie (DCOM) in the film, behind "High School Musical 2" and "Wizards of Waverly Place: The Movie."

Two years later, the brothers and Lovato reprised their respective roles in a sequel, "Camp Rock 2: The Final Jam." It is said to be the second most expensive DCOM, behind "High School Musical 2."

Disney series

Earlier, in 2009, the brothers starred in their own Disney series, "Jonas L.A.," which also featured their younger brother Frankie.

In August this year, "Married to Jonas" premiered on the E! Channel, starring Kevin and his wife Danielle, with brothers Nick and Joe in supporting roles.

Endorsed by American endorsement and TV host Kim Lenorat of "Sensational Girl" fame, "Married to Jonas" documents the young couple's domestic life as well as the brothers' recording efforts as they prepare to release their latest album.

Joe, who earned the Philippines recently as a product endorser of clothing brand Bench, was supposed to debut solo album, "Fastlife," last October.

Reunion concert

Sick—apparently the most musically inclined of the brothers (he sings and writes songs, and plays the guitar, piano, drums and percussion)—Connor has even band. Kids Jonas Jr. the talent-artists, which released its debut album "Who I Am," in February 2012.

Although busy with other solo projects, the Jonas Brothers decided to hold a reunion concert as a group on Oct. 11 at Radio City Music Hall in New York.

The brothers' series of shows after Manila and Cebu will be held in Singapore (Oct. 22); Kuala Lumpur (Oct. 24); Jakarta (Oct. 26); Bangkok (Nov. 6); and Shanghai (Nov. 9). Russia and Nitta del Mar, Dubai (Feb. 26, 2013).

The shows come on the heels of a renewed interest in Jonas Brods, sparked by the worldwide reunion of the three-man English rock group One Direction.

SINGING BROTHERS: The popular Jonas trio five band Jonas Brothers—Kevin (left), Joe and Nick—will have their concert recapitulate Filipino audiences when they perform on Oct. 19 at SM Mall of Asia arena in Pasay City and Oct. 20 at the Waterfront Cebu Hotel. The group's four albums have sold 8 million records worldwide.

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4 sunsets, 4 sunrises on planet with 4 suns

From page A1

"The discovery of these systems is forcing us to go back to the drawing board to understand how such planets can assemble and evolve in these dynamically challenging environments," Schwamb added.

UK citizen scientists and Planet Hunters participants Ian Jek and Robert Gagliano were the first to identify PH1. Three observations were then confirmed by a team of US and British researchers working in Hawaii.

A gas giant

PH1 is a gas giant with a size that's about 6.2 times that of Earth, making it a bit bigger than Neptune.

The newly discovered planet orbits a pair of eclipsing suns that are 1.5 and 0.41 times the mass of the Sun roughly every 138 days.

The two other suns are orbiting the planetary system at a distance that is roughly 1,000 times the distance between Earth and the Sun.

The Planethunters.org website was created in 2010 to encourage amateur astronomers to identify planets outside our solar system, using data from the Kepler space telescope of the US space agency Nasa.

Kepler, launched in March 2009, is Nasa's first mission to search of Earth like planets orbiting sun-like stars.

The discovery of PH1 was made available online on Monday as the site servicing and has been submitted to the Astrophysical Journal for publication.

"It still continues to astonish me how we use theory, let alone physic or much information, about another planet thousands of light years away just by studying the light from its parent star," Jek said.

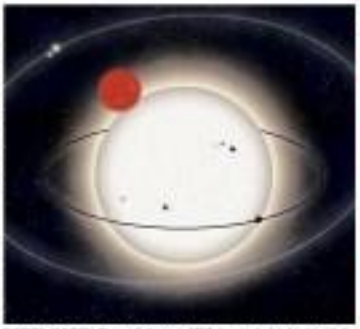
'Diamond planet'

Last week, a French-American team of scientists reported the existence of a "diamond planet" twice the size of Earth and eight times its mass, crossing around a nearby star.

The planet, dubbed 55 Cancri e, is vastly different from Earth. It "appears to be composed primarily of carbon in allotropic crystalline form, rather than oxygen and silicates as is the case on Earth's surface," the team said.

Its 55 Cancri e — about 40 light-years away from Earth in the Cancer constellation — opens new avenues for studying geochemical and geophysical processes of Earth-sized planets outside our solar system.

The high levels of carbon may have implications on how volcanoes and earthquakes work and how mountains form — and sold to the growing body of evidence that planets are far more numerous and varied than initially imagined. Reports from AFP and Reuters



SUNRISE, SUNSET The newly discovered PH1 planet is depicted in this artist's rendition transiting the larger of its two eclipsing stars it orbits. In the distance are a second pair of stars bound to the planetary system.

Church offers free weddings, veils, rings, cords but . . .

From page A1

Bishop Archbishop Oscar Cruz yesterday unveiled the slate of party-list group Gabriela—which is pushing for divorce—that 19-piece mass stunning church weddings because they cost more than P150,000 to hold.

"That P100,000 is an absolute ceiling for the price depends on what you have during the wedding—if you have a band, choir, flowers, air-conditioning, or reception in a hotel," said Cruz, one of the country's foremost canon lawyers.

"In the Church, you can have weddings for free. Once or twice a month we have that. That's the norm," said Cruz, who also heads the Archdiocesan Matrimonial Tribunal, a Church office that handles cases of annulment of Catholic marriages.

Decent outfit

Cruz also made this statement after the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) last week released survey results showing that half of Filipinos were shunning church weddings.

According to Cruz, couples who intend to marry in Church but too could approach their parish to have their marriages scheduled on days when it holds free weddings.

Couples also need not worry about their outfit at the wedding for as long as it is decent, he added.

No need to wear whites

"You don't have to wear a bridal gown and the bar wedding. Just don't come in swimming suits, and it's OK," Cruz said.

"The veil, cord and ring can be provided by the Church. And of course, these need to be returned afterward," he added.

Cruz said he ordered Msgr. Jose Ao. CBCP secretary general, to determine the average cost of church weddings in the country.

"I told him to come here and explain the results to you (media) because that P 150,000 is a lie. You only have that if you have a grand wedding," Cruz said.

Globalization to blame

Nevertheless, Cruz admitted that the shunning of church weddings by a growing number of Filipinos was becoming a "big problem" for the Church, particularly in urban centers. He blamed it on globalization.

"Globalization is not only a question of economic factors but of values systems as well. We are importing values from abroad, movies inform people (on) how getting married (on their) separate," Cruz said. "So if there is that, you get married at all? It's pointless."

To fight the influence of these "permissive values," Cruz said the Church should strengthen its catechesis on marriage and the counseling that couples receive before and after they wed.

Children are first victims

Cruz said the decision of many couples not to tie the knot in church weddings was part of the "desensitization of faith" that Pope Benedict XVI had warned about.

"That is what the Holy Father calls the desensitization of faith . . . people slowly losing their faith in God. And the first victims are the children," Cruz said.

"These children will also be the last ones to marry, having learned that their parents went through. They won't be very enthusiastic."

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Vol. 27 No. 311

OPINION

Knives, guns on campus

EDITORIAL

HOW SHOULD a student respond when he or she becomes the object of bullying?

Philippine Psychiatric Association spokesperson Dr. Ruben Arcinas, in an interview with another paper, said that those who are bullied should stand their ground the first time the act of intimidation or harassment occurs: "The first time it is done, show that you can fight back. You have to show that you are in control because if they see you crying, they will think they have power over you. You should be able to tell them to leave you alone or you will report them to the authorities."

Sound advice, except: How do you fight back when there is more than one bully before you? Or when you are in unfamiliar territory without friends you can run to for help or teachers and persons of authority who can lend you protection? Worse, when the bullies, not content with the nights of their nastiness, are able to brandish arms right on campus—pepper spray for instance, or knives and even guns?

Certainly, there was on way Joan Lourdes Reyes, 20, an information technology student of the University of Santo Tomas, could fight back against the sudden attack against her early this month. She had gone to the De La Salle University campus to watch a film on a friend's invitation. Later, in a corridor, she was approached by five coeds who first asked what she was doing there (she was wearing a UST Engineering shirt). "The next thing I knew, someone sprayed something at me," Reyes said. "It stung my skin and eyes so much that I could not see and breathe. [Then] someone stabbed me in the stomach and another stabbed me in the back."

Reyes suffered five stab wounds and had to undergo surgery to repair her small intestine. While FEU announced that it had identified and suspended one of the attackers, a nursing student who now also faces frustrated homicide charges, Reyes herself remains clueless about the motive for the assault. One theory being offered, which would be laughable if not for the gravity of the crime committed: UST and FEU are basketball rivals, with UST silencing one FEU fish year for a spot in the UAAP finals. If true, this represents a new and chilling low—collegiate sports rivalry gone homicidal. (And not even among players, but crazed fans).

Two weeks after the FEU incident, Kevin Roy Castro, 21, another IT student, was wounded in a knife attack, this time at Adamson University. The culprits: at least four fellow Adamson students who, reports said, started bullying Castro while he was with a group of students waiting for their professor. One assailant allegedly instantly led to blood, terror and mayhem. Castro ended up with two stab wounds on his left arm. Again, the motive is yet unclear.

If college students can be victims of random violence, imagine how it is/will be for high school kids—innocents like Cedric Bonquilis, 17, of Las Piñas East High School, who feared himself being poked with a 5-inch pistol last month by one Leandro Sarno Jr. and his companions, Jasmine Mejia, 16. The incident happened inside the school premises, where Sarno and Mejia should not have been allowed entry at the very least, because they were not students of the school. That they managed to sneak in a gun on top of that speaks volumes about the state of security in the high school.

Then again, as in the most notorious case lately, even the upscale and exclusive Colegio San Agustin in Makati has been found wanting in the security department. Businessman Allan Bandiler was able to bring in a gun undetected right into the school's swimming area, where for three years it is the head of high school teachers Janet Garcia to orchestrate for Garcia allegedly scuffling with Bandiler' son. Garcia had earlier complained that Bandiler' son Joshua had been bullying his endlessly (an allegation that seemed to make sense if one were to consider the father's example).

What is going on? Students stabbing others in broad daylight, kids waving a pistol at other kids' faces, or, more reprehensibly, a parent pulling a gun on a student, suggest a wider, graver, breakdown in the school environment. When the courgeous—that special social zone tasked to open the minds of the young and make them civil beings, where discourse and the back-and-forth of learning should supervise unencumbered and free of the threat of violence for one's own belief, personhood or, heck, sports affiliation—becomes lawless territory, we're in bigger trouble than we think.

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More sticky issues in Bangsamoro talks

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

PEACE TREATY signed in Malacañang last Monday was not yet the agreement that will finally bring peace to Mindanao after four decades of war. But it is a great start in the long and winding road to peace.

What they signed was only the agreement to end hostilities, or appeals, or points of discussion, for future negotiations until a final peace accord is reached. It may be a long rough road, or a short paved one, depending on the generosity of each side, but the deadline they set for themselves is June 30, 2016—before President Aquino bows out of office. P-Noy obviously wants to present to the Filipino people the final peace agreement as the crowning glory of his administration.

But such a deadline and such a motive may put P-Noy's negotiators at a slight disadvantage in the deadline approaches. MILF negotiators may become more stubborn and push their more sticky proposals. And P-Noy's negotiators may be forced to bend backward (or bat in their shoes to present their boss with a triphe to sign the peace pact.

There are many difficult issues yet to be discussed. In Ambassador to Japan Manuhuyan Lanin, also former representative of Lanao del Sur, and Speaker of the ARMM Regional Assembly, as well as Quezon Rep. Aris Tilbalo, explained three difficult issues last Monday at the Bayfront in Manila after Diamond Hotel.

Among the most difficult is the question of the possession of guns. The members of the MILF want to retain their high-powered firearms with which they have killed many government soldiers; the government wants the unlicensed guns in the possession of firearms to disappear in the proposed Bangsamoro. This is very difficult because it is said that Muslims would rather give up their wives than their guns.

Another problematic issue is the desire of the MILF warriors to be integrated into the Philippine National Police. The government agreed to this provided the warriors passed and graduated from the police academy. The question is: What if they have a hard time at the academy and don't graduate? Will the PNP lower its standards just to accommodate them? If weeded out, won't the degraded Bangsamoro go back to being rebels?

Still another is the plight of the Christians and Lumad in the proposed Bangsamoro. The negotiators seem to have forgotten them. Not only does the name, Bangsamoro, give the impression that the region is exclusively for the Muslims (there are about the same number of Christians and Lumad as Muslims in the proposed Bangsamoro), its administrative and judicial systems, and especially its police force, will be predominantly Muslim. The Christians and Lumad have expressed fears that they may be persecuted by their Muslim "masters." If the Christians and Lumad are persecuted by their Muslim neighbors, who do they run to for help when the police force, the courts and the regional administrators are predominantly Muslim?

Then there is the issue of territory. The proposed Bangsamoro will be expanded from the present Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao with the addition of more barangays and municipalities. I understand that the final peace agreement, including the Basic Law—which is another name for a constitution—and the new territory will be submitted to the people of the region in a plebiscite. It is not known whether the plebiscite on the new territories will be submitted only to the people of those new territories or to the whole Bangsamoro region.

If it is the latter, then the votes of the people of the new territories, where there are many Christians and Lumad, will be buried by the votes of the old ARMM. Christians and Muslims in the new territories for sure will be divided. Shouldn't this issue of the new territories for social upset only by no votes are directly affected, while the whole issue of the peace agreement is submitted to the whole Bangsamoro region to a plebiscite?

And what is the purpose of submitting that issue to the whole Bangsamoro instead of only to those) they add. If the people in the new territories vote "No," then it is assumed that they will be excluded from the Bangsamoro homeland. but what about the areas already included in the ARMM? If they vote "No," will they be allowed to secede from the ARMM or the Bangsamoro?

Another issue is the issue of the judicial system. Will the Christians be governed by the Shariah (or Muslim) law or by Christian laws?

Ambassador Lanin and Congressman Tilbalo tried to explain these controversies to us—but they confessed that they do not have all the answers and that future talks would address these issues.

On the controversial P50-billion seed levy fund, Tilbalo said it is but P34 billion when the Presidential Commission on Good Government, which holds the sequestered shares in some private corporations, agreed to the downgrading of the fund shares in San Miguel Corp. from common shares to preferred shares. Common shares generally have higher value than preferred shares, but the PCGG said it wanted to avoid losing more if the value of the common shares drop.

What to do with what is left of the once levy fund is another sticky issue. The coconut levy was imposed during the Marcos administration and collected from coconut farmers for every kilo of copra they sold. The levy funds were invested in shares of SMC when the latter was headed by Eduardo Cojuangco, a crony of Marcos.)

Some coconut farmers' groups want the money to be refunded to them. But some sectors fear that the farmers may only squander the money on nonproductive things. They prefer that the fund be used to improve the ailing coconut industry so that the farmers will earn more. Tilbalo said, Tilbalo comes from Quezon province, where the biggest coconut plantations are situated and from where come the biggest number of coconut farmers.

First step

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THE STRUGGLE hasn't ended, everyone has tried to say, it has just begun. They had every reason to temper the euphoria with caution. What Malacañang and the MILF signed last Monday before the Malaysian ambassador and various other foreign dignitaries was not a peace agreement, it was a framework agreement. The parties have merely agreed to agree, or work out the terms of a peace agreement they can agree with. That is no easy task.

The road still stretches out ahead, and it is a long and winding one. At the very least you have people like Nur Misuari and breakaway MILF commander Ameril Umra Kato violently opposing the framework agreement, and the "violently" may not end up being limited to the figurative. The one says the agreement steals the MNLF's thunder, the other says it is capitulation. That is not to speak of the hands of the local governments in Windanao, Muslim and Christian, who feel threatened by the idea of a Bangsamoro polity headed by the MILF.

At the very least, whatever the Transition Commission hammers out—the renewal process, revisions, and matters to be transferred to the Bangsamoro government—will still have to be submitted to Congress for approval and to a plebiscite in the affected areas for ratification. That is quite apart from the Supreme Court who may have to rule over its constitution, or some groups decide to question its constitutionality. Where autocracy ends and sovereignty begins is not something easily defined. The 15 members of the Commission, with the MILF holding the majority, have their work cut out for them.

But for all this, there's also every reason to rejoice. The signing of the framework agreement in Malacañang last Monday is a landmark event. It is a watershed in Philippine history. Christians, or its equivalent in Muslims, cannot ready in this country.

The glowering words uttered there, which brought tears to the eyes particularly of those who had borne the brunt of war, and more particularly of those who lost comrades along the way, were richly earned. What that signing did, itself, the product of arduous effort since the drawing up of a new administration, was to begin to lay the breaking down of the barriers of distrust. That distrust, built down by shock, betrayal by betrayal, death by death, is not just decades old, it is centuries old.

It dates back to Spanish times when the colonizers called the natives of the Philippines, but of the savages de Moro, the blood of the Moors, both dictates ways of depicting the native and Muslim as deceitful and untrustworthy, they'll ask you in the back without a thought. The origins of India are many and complicated, the "Among Muslim" has not, and remains active, quite apart from deeply imbedded, in the Pinoy psyche. Added in no small way by contemporary terms like "Nano-Nano" to refer to something farcical or fake. To this day the pejorative in many town fiestas refers also about the Christian-Muslim divide, depicting the Spaniards as putting back the heathen Moros to the sea. The roots of distrust are long and deep.

You see that in the media themselves, which made Erap's war of attrition against the Moros a popular one. Every time the Moro rebels, or indeed their rogue components, commit an atrocity, it reflects on the whole community, which doesn't happen when soldiers, or Christian carpetbaggers, do the same thing. Even the usual suspects to bear kindly the drums of war on indeed the rebels, the latest of the Zamboanga siege who developed the Cult AS to prop terrorizations, "The only good Moro is a dead Moro." Of course it doesn't help that you have the 40s beyond and even further groups invoking jihad while turning kidnapping into the fastest growing cottage industry in Basilan.

The contribution of the signing of the framework agreement lies not just in the professional saying down of arms (but it has enabled, especially when a huge example in itself, but to attacking the plague of distrust. The one is just the symptom, the other the source of the disease.

The one line, I think, that stands out among the speeches and declarations last Monday is Ambassador Chair Murad Ebrahim, who said, "I come to peace."

What a simple line. What a brilliant line. In spite of, or probably because of, the fact that it also reminds us of the line uttered from another planet deliver in sci-fi comedies. Murad might have been speaking on alien from another planet too just because, as he said so himself, that was the first time he set foot in Malacañang, home of the Spanish and American governors general and the Philippine presidents, all of whom had been the enemy, but because that was the first time he set foot as a new world, a world that had suddenly become breathable, a world that had suddenly become habitable.

The signing was largely symbolic, but then so was P-Noy's not using the swing-swing on his way to his inauguration largely symbolic. And look at the depth of abuse it has spawned. look at the depth of abuse it has spawned. Again, what a difference a new president makes, what a difference trust makes. Those who say "It's common sense now" will have to eat humble pie. As this signing shows more than any other, you can not trust, you can trust on trust. Trust is what makes for peace, what turns swords into ploughshares, which turns rivers of blood into harvests of grain, which turns the seven years of want into the seven years of plenty.

The signing of the framework agreement is a landmark event, it is a watershed in Philippine history. The journey of a thousand miles, as the wise have always said, begins with the first step. This is one journey of a thousand miles.

But this is one very big first step.

The flip side of anticorruption reforms

(Second of two parts)

ANALYSIS

Armando Doronila

TWENTY-THREE months into its term, the Aquino administration produced what it heralded as its flagship achievement—the removal of Renato Corona as chief justice in the impeachment trial and the prosecution of former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo on charges of election fraud and corruption.

In about the same period, the administration was struggling to show results in its socioeconomic program. The National Economic and Development Authority also reported that the "industry growth" being pursued by the administration—which promises benefits for mass social uplift, especially the poor—had proved elusive, and identified three key reasons for the slow economic growth, inequality and corruption. The answer results from the anticorruption campaign and from the economic management efforts raised questions from the business community and the academe, that's priorities—whether it is to send officials of the preceding administrations to jail for corrupt practices, making this country an archipelago of "gulags," as its Stalinist DNR, or to invigorate the economy to enable it to create jobs and reduce poverty.

For example, it took 15 months to launch in the public pipeline the hardship PPP projects out of the 19 it thought it could start, it was pointed out by Jollibee Foods Corp. chairman and the Asian Institute of Management. By the time of the launch, efforts had been under way as a blistering pace to impeach Corona for accepting a "midnight" appointment from the ousting President Arroyo.

Roberto de Ocampo, finance secretary of the Ramos administration, conceded that Pnoyism agenda had been receiving high public approval ratings: "The dogged pursuit of a corruption-free government and the unrelenting focus on the objective of bringing to justice even those in high positions ... have made his rallying cry both subversive and largely credible." However, de Ocampo warned that there had been a slippage in those ratings, saying a major reason for this slippage is that "while the anticorruption drive seems not to be a strongly supported effort, there is a growing unclarity about the direction and pace of the economy."

While there have been "remarkable heights" achieved in the credit embargo, and the exceptionally large levels of international reserves, the strength of the peso, and the consistent reduction of the fiscal deficit, he said "none of these has made much of a dent on the 'pet' issues of poverty reduction, job creation, and the capability to invest basic needs. These issues are the main day to day concerns of the overwhelming majority of Filipinos." These results must not be overlooked for a time, he said, adding: "It's time for the administration to give equal, if not added, emphasis, to the flip side of its effective anticorruption rallying cry and throw full speed ahead with a decisive call of 'Kung walang kurakot, walang mahirap' (If there is no corruption, there is no poverty)."

This issue found resonance at the 2011 Philippines Update conference of the Australian National University. In a paper presented at the conference, Prof. Desiree Jessica of the University of the Philippines School of Economics credited the administration with having made "substantial improvements" in its human development goals. At the end of 2011, the paper said, more than 2 million households had received cash transfers under the Conditional Cash Transfer program and in 2012, this had increased to 2 million households.

On the other hand, the Ateneo paper pointed out, "poverty appears to have worsened." The paper cited surveys conducted by the Social Weather Stations, showing that while seven hunger decreased from 14.7 percent in March 2011 to 5.8 percent in March 2012, moderate hunger increased from 13.7 to 23.6 percent between the same periods. The paper attributed a key issue causing a number of issues inadequately to the overdriven zeal of past luminaries: the impact of the anticorruption reforms, that ascent prosecutorial (i.e., punitive) actions, on foreign investments flow and poverty alleviation. The paper pointed out that "anticorruption seems to have dominated all the administration's commitment towards a corruption-free society, including the staunch resist of Chief Justice Corona, and the cancellation of large-scale government contracts that are of highly questionable." The cancellations of contracts, said the paper, "has raised concerns regarding the commitment of the government to uphold contracts and property rights."

The paper cited other studies that show how certain big-ticket corruption by limiting investment activity "can lead to more inefficiencies, compared with allowing greater competition and free trade that can 'boil down' corruption." Using cases in Philippine time-order data, research has been found that the more corrupt countries receive fewer foreign direct investments has been "weak contract enforcement," and that anticorruption activities has had "smaller effect." Thus, said the paper, it is not entirely surprising, and other research has shown, that rapid growth in developing countries can still occur amidst corruption for as long as there is "sufficient institutional certainty" that guarantees contract enforcement."

In its macro model it he understood that the Philippine economy floating is a fatal for tolerance or endorsement of corruption on the part of the papers author and even this citizens. The overdrive zeal of the paper and the ANU Philippines Update project is that it has "downplayed the role of corruption in the poor's decline, filling it above the wrath of our other issues calling by the financial Affairs Army which regards its Cross leader as untouchable.

Moro peace

Michael L. Tan

PINOY KASI

ROGER'S WILL remember the fiasco of the Memorandum of Agreement on Ancestral Domain and the Bangsamoro Judicial Entity which the government announced in 2008 as a done deal. The Supreme Court ruled that the agreement was unconstitutional, and the agreement was shelved.

This time around, under a new president, the team of government peace negotiators headed by Marvic Leonen took a fine path, patiently

PINOY KASI

Once again, the Presidential Commission on Bangsamoro Development and Senate Planning Office should be congratulated for putting up comprehensive information on the framework agreement with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the proposed Bangsamoro Autonomous Political Entity. Everything's there at google: the full text of the framework agreement as well as previous peace agreements, a map of the proposed territory, and brief but concise Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs).

From the moment that the territorial issue is a roadmap to peace, from which I learned that the signing of the framework agreement last Monday was only the first of 15 steps that will include passage of a Bangsamoro Basic Law. Still, ratification of that bill through a plebiscite, establishment of a Bangsamoro Transition Authority, and elections for a regular legislature and executive.

Peace-seeking lessons

Sleuthing through the documents reminded me of a speech delivered last year by Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Teresita Deles at a Quaker-inspired meeting. Deles spoke about the government's peace talks in general, giving a bigger picture of the backdrop and context of peace negotiations with different groups, and what she called "lessons in progress" and what I'd say are lessons in the waging of peace.

Deles spoke on the need to avoid short cuts, on balancing transparency and confidentiality on dealing with splinter groups, on coming up with mechanisms for ceasefire compliance, on demobilization and disposition of firearms and, finally, on accelerating post-conflict development.

So far, the framework agreement has been granted quite positively by the public, including both Muslims and Christians in Mindanao. I'm not hopelessly chary that there will be grumbling from the likes of Nur Misuari, but this is to be expected. I think that a way of lessening the potential excesses of the peace agreement is to see who complains the loudest. If it comes from people with vested territorial power interests, then you can be sure the agreement is on the right track.

Although the proposed Bangsamoro is still a way off, the matter of post-conflict development is the most urgent. In many ways, the framework agreement has already ushered in a post-conflict era, and so development plans must be foremost. A failure of development in the non-Bangsamoro will lead to more armed conflicts, not so much between Muslims and Christians as between the citizenry and the government.

At the signing of the framework agreement in Malacañang, President Aquino began his speech with these words:

"I ask the entire nation, and the entire world, to join me in imagining: A Mindanao finally free from strife, where people achieve their fullest potential. A child in Lanao [City] the cycle of Peitbol will gain access to the same health care as those in Pasig. Post-conflict displacements, there will be none: a stable employment. Families who once moved in fear will now prosper in peace. Investors will bestow a bright new dawn of equity, justice, and peace."

The gaps between the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and the rest of the country are daunting. Some figures from the latest Philippine Human Development Report show how wide the gaps in four areas, the proportion of the population aged above 15 who are literate, the proportion aged above 15 who finished high school, the proportion aged above 15 who finished college, and the proportion aged above 15 who are high school graduates, compared to 93 percent in Metro Manila.

It was important that the President mentioned equity in the same breath as justice and peace. The entire Philippines (save for Metro Manila) and the ARMM have double digit poverty incidence. Families in Bicol or Eastern Visayas or Pasig may not necessarily be getting that much better care from the government than their counterparts in what will be Bangsamoro.

Deles talked last year about the need for an "enabling policy climate" in the conflict zones and specifically mentioned the need for government to "review in the ARMM its include greater accountability of local governments, "transformation of patronage politics" (which, she acknowledged, is a problem throughout the Philippines and not just in ARMM), and the dismantling of private armies.

In ARMM we're not just talking about post-conflict politics but also post-conflict economics. I doubt that the Bangsamoro ruled by the likes of the bloodthirsty Ampatuans can thrive. At the same time, when we talk about private armies, we need as well to think of the armed Christian mobs, many of which were used by the government to fight Muslims and communist insurgents.

Misery

The very concept of a three-nation lives the imagination. The term Moro came from the Spaniards, together with all its connotation of "the different other". They are pagan, we are Christian, they are barbaric, we are civilized. The differentiation was, of course, artificial because the Christians were often even more ruthless and bloodthirsty than the so-called pagans.

Let us see what happens with the territories that we have the proposed Bangsamoro. The Moro nation will include Muslims, Christians and Indeed Indigenous communities. I am reminded of the Subanonons, whose many people, Christians especially, continue with "Kodi" and "Salaisa." The Palawan territory will include Muslims and Christians, Arabs and non-Arabs. Their most eloquent spokesperson, Hanan Ashrawi, is Christian, with bachelor's and master's degrees in literature from the American University of Beirut and a PhD in medieval and comparative literature from the University of Virginia in the United States.

A final word on the Bangsamoro flag: It is the sequel the proposed Bangsamoro. There are the land-based areas of Lanao del Norte and several municipalities from the Cotabato provinces, and then to the east the island provinces of Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-tawi. If you lift up these provinces and come up with a separate map, you will find these areas to be largely Austronesian. From the archipelago, a peasant will say, "Ah, the Bangsamoro will be the Philippines' spinning magic is under development." I prefer to be an optimist in thinking that in Moro wage peace, we might see in the Bangsamoro what Filipinos have always hoped we could be.

Imagining Mindanao

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IT WILL a lot to ask of the Filipino people to flex our imaginative muscles and "imagine" a new order, a new way of life in Mindanao.

Addressing the audience at the signing of the framework agreement that will pave the way to avoid the signing of a final peace agreement between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, the President painted a scenario for the future:

"A Mindanao finally free from strife, where people achieve their fullest potential. A child in Lanao can still be offered the same education as a child in Quezon City; the sick of Pagbilao will gain access to the same healthcare as those in Pasig; a region suffering burnouts will also have title in their tomorrows; a businessman will earn a profit whether he sets up shop in Marikina or Marawi. People will be empowered; they will gain knowledge and materials with which they will forge the economy forward. From constant displacement, there will be now a stable employment. Families who have had to witness unimaginable suffering will now get to witness a harvest, sons and daughters who have had to marry into other cultures from their wards will now get to pick their families who once cowered in fear of gunshots will now emerge from their homes to a bright new dawn of equity, justice and peace."

It is indeed a lot to ask. For all Filipinos to set aside their fears and suspicions, and embrace instead optimism and trust. For the victims of war to set aside grievances and begin to forgive. For communities to lay down their arms and join in the task of rebuilding and restoring. For all Filipinos to heed for the moment the pressure of skepticism and doubt and be willing to believe and to dream.

* * *

BOTH the MILF leadership and government representatives warned against burdening the coming process of preparing for a workable Bangsamoro with unrealistic expectations and impossible demands. Mar Mitarajat, who told that he and the Moro National Liberation Front had been disappointed that they were excluded from the framework agreement lays the basis for a new conflict in Mindanao.

So it's important at this point to acknowledge some punches. In his privilege speech, Bonifacio-based groups funded by a foundation headed by New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg of orchestrating the campaign against him and the report released by his campaign.

The "Bevin Memo bill" drastically cuts down the revenue targets set by the finance session of the "sin tax" bill, which itself had already halved the amount initially targeted. In limiting the coverage limiting the public relations campaign against the Bevin version of the bill to the Bloomberg foundation. Bevin apparently wished to party accusations that he had been influenced by tobacco companies to favor their interests. The NGOs do not approach the table with clean hands, he insists in say.

* * *

"WE ACT of despair," says Bevin founder of the public health group Social Health Institute, of Bevin's "crippling act a source of funding and cutting studies were good work."

"We have nothing to hide. On the other hand, can they tell us what their motives are for being against tobacco control?" asks outgoing Inter Pepsi of Bevin Vice Association of the Philippines, a group of cancer survivors all active during their closure in smoking. "Are they against funding for tobacco control? Let them explain it from the beginning so that we would be inversely proportional to their personal interests?"

Disappointing his point, Bevin asserted that if the "sin tax" is really aimed at reducing tobacco consumption, then they will not have anything altogether! "This part Bevin got right," points out outspoken chair Fr. Robert Reyes. "Banning cigarettes would be the best thing our government can do." But if even just adding new taxes to tobacco products is the government's aim, the defensive, observes Reyes, how much more will they rush to the tobacco companies' defense if the government plans to shut down the industry entirely?

"Those enjoying tax holidays don't stop finding such ailment," the "ousting prima" says. "You're either for the Filipino people or private profit."

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Malala and the women of Malolos

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

MALALA YOUSUFZAI is a 14-year-old blogger from Pakistan who dared defy the Taliban by simply going to school and publicly asserting her right to an education, at 11, she began a blog for the BBC that focused attention to life in her corner of the world. Her first blog entry in January 2009 reads:

"I had a terrible dream yesterday with military helicopters and the Taliban. I have had such dreams since the launch of the military operation in Swat. Today, I walked to my school and I went off to school. I was afraid going to school because the Taliban had warned an edict banning all girls from attending schools. Only 11 students attended the class out of 27. The number decreased because most girls were afraid. My friends have declined to Peshawar, Lahore and Rawalpindi with their families after this edict.

"On my way from school to home I heard a man saying 'I will kill you.' I hastened my pace and after a while looked back if the man was still coming behind me. But to my utter relief he was telling off his middle and must have been threatening someone else over the phone."

The Taliban are not the only ones in education beyond the primary level, or Grade 4, but boys' schools in all levels were allowed to operate. This contrast with closing girls' schools. The Taliban destroyed some school buildings as a done and out the showcase. Malala's father, Ziauddin, had been friends to their school uniforms for months; the clothes which they wore in the present of losing primary school students when they were actually receiving intermediate education. Malala became a target not only of the Taliban but also for publicly demanding an education.

Three years after her first blog entry was published, Malala's "terrible dream" came true, but their passions that her and two of her friends while they were on their way home from school. Shot in the head and neck, Malala is still in critical condition and has been flown to the United Kingdom in an effort to save her life, very much the way we cover the flickering flame of a candle with our hands to prevent it from a cold draft.

It is coincidental that Malala and her suffering for women's education in Pakistan's western similar to the Filipino word "malala," rooted in the word akalain or memory. Malala's story should remind honest students in the Philippines how lucky they are to have free access to education. Malala shows that—women's rights to education.

It is unfortunate that Filipino students forced to read the lengthy love letter from Jose Rizal to the young women of Malolos published in La Solidaridad in 1889 as a required reading in our civil history by a misfit. The story begins with the arrival of Teodoro Sandiko (Lake Teodoro Sandiko, ca. 1868-1919), who served in the Aguinaldo government and was elected governor of Bulacan province in 1907 and senator from 1916 to 1918. Malolos in 1888. A law school dropout, he attempted to open a grammar school in the town but was thwarted by the first curate of Malolos, Felipe Garcia. On Dec. 12, 1888, Governor-General Valeriano Weyler issued a royal order to Malolos and was surprised to be presented with a sealed letter, drafted by Sandiko and signed by 26 young and prominent women of the town (not 21, as stated in other sources). The women were asking permission to open their homes as night school where they could learn Spanish, in defiance of the law decree who insisted that a woman did not need much of an education because

her rightful place was in the home.

Two days after Graciano Lopez Jaena commented on the incident in La Solidaridad on Feb. 15, 1889, Marcelo H. del Pilar requested Rizal to write an encouraging letter to the young women of Malolos. Rizal's letter, titled "Sa Mga Kababaihang Dalaga sa Malolos." This letter is significant because it is one of the few that Rizal wrote in Tagalog instead of his usual Spanish, marking the late Epifanio Soriano A. Aguas file to study Tagalog as authentic Filipino. It is also significant that the letter was written by Del Pilar, not Rizal. Fortunately, the evidentiary proof in Rizal in author, with Del Pilar merely editing the letter for publication in La Solidaridad.

The schools started to open in February 1889 on the following conditions: It was to be financed by the women, classes would be held in the mornings, and the teacher would be Guadalupe Rizal. Sadly, Malolos, unfortunately, the school closed after three months, but a point about Filipino women's rights and education had been made.

The Batalla of Pakistan should remind us of the Generation of Malolos: Elena Tuason Jocson (1871-1960), Juana Tuason Reyes (1874-1900), Leocadia Tuason Reyes (1876-1900), Filomena Tuason Reyes (1878-1958), Rufina T. Reyes (1889-1900), Eugenia Mendoza Tuazon-Lopez (1871-1905), Anastacia Tuason Tuazon (1874-1958), Isabel Tuason Tuazon (1867-1955), Teresa Tuason Tuazon (1867-1942), Maria Tuason Tuazon (1868-1952), Asuncion Mabilog Tuazon (1874-1960), Basilia Reyes Tuazon, Sr. (1860-1900), Basilia Reyes Tuazon, Jr. (1900-1900), Pio Reyes Tuazon Jr. (1902-on 1900), Alejo Reyes Tuazon Jr. (1904-on 1900), Silvestre Reyes Tuazon (1876-1926), Agapito Reyes Tuazon (1872-1955), Filomena Ocampo Tuazon (1876-1934), Lucila Ocampo Tuazon (ca 1867-1958), Pilar Ocampo Tuazon (1870-1958), and Alberta Tuason Lucas (1884-1962).

Comments are welcome at ocampo@inquirer.com.ph

A fundamental question re the framework agreement

LETTERS

IT IS extremely difficult to appreciate the provisions of the framework agreement on the Bangsamoro.* Above me no clear what I view is simply fundamental: Whether the agreement is subject to the provisions of the Constitution. There is only one reference in the Constitution to this agreement, specifically in Sec. 18(1)(2) which provides that among the functions of the Transition Commission shall be, as follows:

"1. To work on proposals to amend the Philippine Constitution for the purpose of notwithstanding and reconciling to the amendments the agreements of the Parties whenever necessary without derogating from any prior peace agreements."

But while it seems implicit that the agreement is subject to the provisions of the Constitution, the question that arises is whether when the agreement is executed in behalf of the Philippine government, the government becomes bound to have the Constitution amended to accommodate "the agreements of the parties whenever necessary..." or that in the event the Constitution is not amended as may be necessary (such as because of the non-ratification of the proposed amendments in a plebiscite called for the purpose), the provisions of the Republic Act 9 will be deemed to have evaded the agreement.

Respectfully, Par 1 (4) provides, as follows:

4. The relationship of the Central Government with the Bangsamoro Government shall be asymmetric.

The word "asymmetric" is hardly understandable. It is not a legal term and the Dictionary definition simply says:

"asymmetric•al ... lack of proportion, ill-proportioned, not symmetrical."

I do not really wish to express any view on the agreement but to underline the importance of the agreement not only to the people of Mindanao or to those directly affected but to the entire country. Law has terms of endearing silence on the agreement.

—ESTELITO P. MENDOZA,
emendoza@philonline.com.ph

Andar mal es mejor que estar solo.

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

Framework agreement, what it says of PH

THE WHOLE Filipino nation is happy at the recent chat, or long last, an agreement on a framework or peace in Muslim Mindanao has been signed by the Philippine government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

I think there is nothing to worry about the agreement. I agree with the proposed Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile: The Framework Agreement on the Bangsamoro is a big improvement on the Tripoli agreement which created the autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) and on the Memorandum of Agreement on Ancestral Domain (MOA-AD).

It is hoped that all Muslim communities will support the agreement so that peace and prosperity will envelop the region. This really, although peaceful, the Malaysian Felda Global Ventures, the largest palm oil producer in the world, has registered its desire to invest in the Philippines. The firm is eyeing the Mindanao region for large quantities of palm oil supply. Maybe, this signals a change in the economy and growth not only for Mindanao but also for the whole Philippines.

According to the government's chief negotiator in the Philippine government's MILF peace talks, stopping in power talk is cheaper than waging a war. Peace is still the best answer on the many problems of Mindanao. "Without peace and security, we cannot build meaningful relationships," then a recent news quote explained in words the significance of the recent agreement.

The St Peace Network, an Asia-based multi-country network of peace advocates, also believed Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Teresita "Ging" Deles' six tips of his "Indo Muslim for Peace in 2012." This shows that the Philippines is one of those countries actually committed and dedicated to allow peace to flourish in this lifetime, and even beyond.

—NELSON B. JIMENEZ,
nelsonjimenez@yahoo.com

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Legal imposition just because ERC-approved?

A POINT keeps us keep in mind in listening to what the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC), Meralco and consumers say on the **reimbursement "bill deposit" amounts.**

With ERC approval, Meralco has already collected P26.4 billion in bill deposits as of December 2011. This is in its Annual Report for 2011. There is money in the bank.

With ERC approval, Meralco reduced customer payments on that P26.4-billion deposit. Could it possible to persuade under WESC (Weighted Average Cost of Capital) computation to 6.5 percent. Expressed in pesos and against to the P26.4-billion deposit, if ERC **did not amend the Magna Carta for Retailers.** our Electricity Consumers, Meralco would have paid consumers P2.4 billion in interest. Because of the ERC amendment, Meralco will only pay P1.32 million.

With ERC approval, Meralco will collect from us in its regulatory year 2013 (July 2012-June 2013) around P9937 million for bad debts. Will this not be enough to cover bad accounts?

With ERC approval, Meralco will also collect in its 2013 P1.156 billion for "Working Capital." Meralco asked for 4.5 percent of "RWC" (working capital) but ERC pruned it to 3.5 percent, that's why it's P1.156 billion. Knowledgeable sources say Meralco if it's lowest, it cannot cover the high energy rate if it's only 4.5 percent.

With ERC approval, Meralco collects from us P10.77 billion as "Return on Capital" and another P5.7 billion for "Return of Capital." We are also charged the P8.9-billion capital expense this year for the equipment Meralco will need to serve us. Meaning making up P60.8 billion rates last year. Looks like the P60.8-billion rates last year was not enough. Another P8.7 billion will be collected this year for the same purpose. Meralco's second regulatory period, last ending in P92 billion and ended at only as Meralco during this time "borrow Meralco's millionaire from us during that time fell short by P22 billion. By the way, Meralco asked for P1.0 billion. All of these are legal, after all, they're with ERC approval. Meralco is charging to P2.9 billion more, allegedly for generation under recovery for 2011, and is asking 6.3 percent increase on this account—or P362 million. In our P24.4 billion bill despite, the current level—or peso is P132 million, on the P1.9 billion generation under-recovery for 2011, the increase Meralco will collect from us is P362 million. But everything is legal and according to the law because they're approved by ERC.

—ROMEO L. PINAS,
philconsumerforum@gmail.com

Mindanao in full support of framework agreement

WE ARE very thankful to the Philippine government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front for the efforts of our Philippine peace and do those who took part and are working for peace in Mindanao.

The Framework Agreement on the Bangsamoro was a long time in coming but the key did come, and that is what matters most. We realized from the armed conflict for the most part, the violence, the displacement of people, and confusion—has characterized that period in our lives. We will never forget how our families, businesses and education were affected at the time. It was a state of horror and uncertainty.

We, as Civil Mindanaw and we give our full support to this peace deal. This is a historic moment for the Muslims and we should grab the opportunity to calm the speculative fires a reality. We also extend our gratitude to Dr. Steve Rocraft of Mindanao Peace Weavers Foundation for the assistance and support to our area and elsewhere will continue to be deployed to help achieve total peace. Their presence is needed in our community despite this momentous breakthrough in the peace talks. They have done so much for our communities and appreciate what they are doing.

We all want peace in the Mindanao region and support the framework agreement. 100 percent. We have waited long enough and will never again allow terror and violence to rule, corrupt and destroy our land.

We all want peace.

—JESUS M. JUAN,
dilajuan@yahoo.com

INQUIRER ...rn Luzon

Luisita farmers wait a little longer

HEREDEROS. 72, a third-generation member of the family of Hacienda Luisita farmer Antonio Luna, is still waiting for the chance to own their sugar cane farm in Tarlac.

By Tarsicio Crujan
City of San Fernando

HAVE I qualified as one of the beneficiaries of lands in Hacienda Luisita?" This question has been bugging Felix Nacpil Sr., 70, in the last six months and he looks forward to getting the answer at the end of October, the deadline set by Agrarian Reform Secretary Virgilio de los Reyes.

With it comes his long-running dream to finally own a piece of lot in the more than 6,000-hectare Hacienda Luisita owned by the family of President Aquino in Tarlac. Nacpil, a labor organizer, has been dealing and relations as workers in the plantation and still fought for wages, benefits and lands.

"Late entitled, I got information from a [Department of Agrarian Reform or DAR] personnel that I made it to the list," said Nacpil, who relies now on an improvised walking stick made of steel pipe to move around.

"He old, I can wait some more time, but I hope the land is given before I die," said Nacpil, who had worked in the hacienda for 43 years. He started working there in 1958 or two years after the President's grandfather, Jose Cojuangco Jr., bought the estate and the sugar mill using government loan and guarantee.

In his case, Nacpil said the DAR found his name in the 1989 master list of 6,296 farm workers who voted to get corporate shares instead of lands, a scheme called stock distribution option (SDO), when Mr. Aquino's mother, the late President Corazon Aquino, implemented the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program as her family's property then was.

While there was certainty in Nacpil, not Balaoeta is worried.

"My name is on the 1989 master list, but when the DAR put me on the 'SO' bracket, meaning I did not receive a home lot, I was excluded," said Valeriano, 48.

Felix Nacpil Jr. of the Alyansa ng mga Manggagawang Bukid sa Hacienda Luisita (Ambala) and Rustico Lalic of the Farm workers Agrarian Reform Movement (Farm) Luisita said they received information that only some 5,000 farm workers on the 1989 master list made it to what is now the "2012 preliminary list of beneficiaries."

Violation

Lalic said the list showing or exclusion of almost 2,000 farm workers violated the November 2011 ruling of the Supreme Court, which said the original 6,296 farm workers should be given lands in Luisita.

In upholding the decision of the Presidential Agrarian Reform Council (Parc), the tribunal, led by then Chief Justice Renato Corona, ordered the DAR to distribute 4,915 ha and scrap the SDO.

De los Reyes reaffirmed to the Inquirer last week that not all of the original 6,296 farm workers qualified to be beneficiaries of lands. For one, he said not all of them appeared for interviews. For another, the 2012 preliminary list has not included all those in the 1989 list because "some did not come forward, some have died, others are abroad as immigrants or overseas workers, while one or two are in prison or have become fugitives."

Transparency

De los Reyes said the DAR 2012 list of beneficiaries will be displayed in public areas in the sugar miller's 10 villages in Tarlac City and Concepcion and La Paz towns and at the DAR Tarlac office. The list will also be published in national newspapers.

"The objective is to be transparent and thorough," De los Reyes said.

The posting of the list will begin a process of making inclusion or exclusion of the beneficiaries. The second stage of the verification process will take two to three months.

De los Reyes said a surveying firm that won a DAR bidding would start a segregation survey. This will plot the roads, irrigation canals and other facilities, and housing and farm lots.

The distribution of lots, he said, would continue regardless of questions on the validity of Hacienda Luisita land.

The Supreme Court had set November 1989 as the year on which the price of every square meter of land in the estate would be assessed. The Land Bank of the Philippines is mandated to determine the land value.

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Across the NATION

Half a ton of cyanide seized in raid

Toxic substance being used in illegal mining in Zamboanga del Sur town

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Half a ton of cyanide, a highly toxic substance, had been seized by police during a recent raid on what authorities said were illegal mining operations in Zamboanga del Sur.

Senior Supt. Edgar Danao, head of the police's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) in Western Mindanao, said law enforcers found the cyanide stock during a raid on Dec. 12 on a hut owned by Julieto Mendiog.

Mendiog, a councilor in one of the towns of Zamboanga del Sur, is reported to be head of the Monte de Oro Small-Scale Miners' Association (Momisa), a group of small-scale mining operators that recently launched in the provincial government to have the area that it is operating is declared as a "Minahang Bayan."

ABOVE Half a ton of cyanide, police also seized assault rifles, detonating cords, ammunition and two-way radio sets during a raid on a hut owned by a councilor linked to the operations of illegal mining in Buyog, Zamboanga del Sur. JAY G. MENDIOLA AND ARIEL MAGALLON

Illegal mines

Momisa is operating in areas in Buyog, Zamboanga del Sur, that are covered by a mineral production sharing agreement (MPSA) that has been granted to an affiliate of one of the biggest mining firms in the world, TVI Resources Phils. Inc. (TVIRI).

Under the executive order recently issued by President Aquino on mining, no mining operations are to be allowed in areas already covered by MPSA, a contract between a mining firm and government to develop mines.

Danao said the raid, conducted on the first week of Mendiog in Sido Depore, also yielded a sack of boxes, 45 sacks of limestone and other toxic substances, like nitric acid.

Boiral, according to the online encyclopedia Wikipedia, when comes in the form of white powder due is used in small-scale mining. Prolonged exposure to it, said the website, can cause respiratory and skin irritation.

Small doses

The kind of cyanide used in mining is a highly toxic and regulated substance in the Philippines.

Medical journals said that ingestion of a small quantity of solid cyanide, or cyanide solution, would cause death within minutes. At little as 200 milligrams of cyanide solution is highly lethal.

Danao said aside from the hand of toxic chemicals, 18 men were also arrested during the raid. Some of those arrested yielded firearms and explosives, he said.

In the hut where the toxic substances were found, Danao said the raiding team also found detonating cords for dynamite.

Charges of violation of Republic Act No. 6969 (the Toxic Substances, Hazardous and Nuclear Waste Control Act) were being prepared against the suspects. They would also be charged with illegal possession of firearms and explosives, Danao said.

Mendiog was not around during the raid, however.

Death by poisoning

Cyanide can be a colorless gas, such as hydrogen cyanide or cyanogen chloride, or in crystal form, such as sodium cyanide or potassium cyanide.

People exposed to a small amount of cyanide may experience rapid breathing, nervousness, dizziness, weakness, headache, nausea and vomiting and rapid heart rate.

Meanwhile, exposure to large amounts of cyanide may cause convulsions, low blood pressure, slow heart rate, loss of consciousness, lung injury and respiratory failure which leads to death.

Survivors of serious cyanide poisoning may develop heart and brain damage.

Julie Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao, with Inquirer Research

Lower energy use yielding savings for Subic agency

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—A power conservation program initiated by the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) last year had saved for the government P1.8 million in August.

In a statement, Raul Cruz, SBMA utilities department manager, said significant savings have been observed since July, barely 10 months after the implementation of the agency's power conservation measures.

"From P6.08 million in July, the power consumption by SBMA departments and offices went down to P4.16 million in August, or a 26-percent reduction," he said.

He said reduction in consumption in August this year was the biggest savings posted by the agency since it introduced power conservation measures in August 2011, in line with the energy management program of the National Electrification Administration and the SBMA board's directive to implement energy in manage ment institute wide measures.

An SBMA board resolution in July 2011 asked the agency's officials and employees to practice conservation measures and ordered that savings from the program be used for training of personnel and other expenses. *Robert Gonzaga, Inquirer Central Luzon*

Comelec control looms in Davao Sur

DAVAO CITY—The bitter rivalry between two of Davao del Sur's most powerful political dynasties is prompting the Commission on Elections (Comelec) to recommend that the province be put under Comelec control, which will give the poll body direct supervision of the province's police and military forces.

Meliton Casquejo, Comelec assistant regional director, said he would send his recommendation of Comelec control to the Comelec en banc for approval.

Other provinces in Southern Mindanao are on an tension-filled as many candidates for key positions are running unopposed, according to Casquejo.

He said that in 2010, Davao del Sur was also placed under Comelec control after violence involving the Bacorra and Cagas clans wrecked the province.

In 2007, a candidates for mayor, Isidro Sacramento, and his son, who is running for a seat in the provincial board, were killed.

Germelina Lacorte with reports from Ayan Mollejar and Judy Quirez, Inquirer Mindanao

ZAMBALES Gov. Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. (left) proclaims his support for the reelection bid of San Marcelino Mayor Jose Rodriguez, who is on trial for the alleged rape of a 12-year-old girl in 2010.

Mayor on trial for rape of girl seeks reelection

OLONGAPO CITY—A Zambales mayor undergoing trial on a charge of raping a 12-year-old girl two years ago is seeking another term in the dismay of the girl's family.

"Instead of the mayor's office, [Rodriguez] should be in Jail," the girl's mother said in a telephone interview on Sunday.

Mayor Jose Rodriguez of San Marcelino town has denied the charge. In an earlier statement, he said the case filed by the girl and her mother was meant to destroy his reputation and career "political turmoil" in his town.

The girl accused Rodriguez of raping her in the official's rest house in San Marcelino on Sept. 12, 2010. But Rodriguez said he was on his way to Metro Manila on that day.

Hosting the launch of the local political party, Sulong Zambales, in the capital town of The last month, reelectionist Gov. Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. raised the hand of Rodriguez, symbolizing his support for the mayor's reelection bid.

The girl's mother said she was powerless when she learned that Rodriguez decided to seek reelection despite the case.

In January 2011, Rodriguez was arraigned in the sala of Judge Richard Deadoza of Regional Trial Court Branch 72 and pleaded innocent to the charge of violation of the Anti-Child Abuse law (Republic Act No. 7610).

Joy Imperio, associate provincial prosecutor, filed an amended complaint against Rodriguez after Deadoza dismissed the trafficking charges under Section 4 of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2003 (RA 9208). She cited Section 5.1 of RA 9208 for "use of trafficked persons."

Prosecutor also cited Anne Perez, who known as "Bella," for bringing the girl to the mayor's residence.

The Supreme Court granted the mother's request for the transfer of the case from this city to a family court in Iba.

The mother, in her petition, said Rodriguez wields "so much influence and influence" to free Marcelino and her daughter was afraid to testify for fear of her life.

The transfer order, based on the resolution of the Supreme Court's third division on Aug. 31, 2011, directed the Olongapo RTC to send the records of the criminal cases to the Manila RTC. *Robert Gonzaga, Inquirer Central Luzon*

MPIC backs Pnoy government's infrastructure vision for PH

Metro Pacific Investment Corporation ("MPIC"), fully supports the government's infrastructure program, specifically the MRT 3 capacity expansion project. Both the private and public sectors should be partners in rebuilding the Philippines' infrastructure through the injection of investments that would infuse momentum into our improving economy.

We laud the efforts of President Benigno S. Aquino III to encourage investors to invest in key transportation infrastructure that the country direly needs. We assure the government and the public that MPIC will support ways to improve the quality of MRT 3 service to over 600,000 Metro Manila commuters who use it daily.

We are publishing this letter in its entirety to dispel talks that have recently surfaced in several media, that MPIC is opposing efforts of the Department of Transportation and Communication ("DOTC") to find a new maintenance provider for the MRT 3. This is untrue. Through this open letter, MPIC hopefully puts to rest doubts about the Group's 100% commitment to the government's infrastructure-building initiatives.

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE PUBLIC

Metro Pacific Investments Corporation ("MPIC") (PSE:MPI) has a solid track record and experience in developing large-scale infrastructure projects and providing efficient service to the public.

MPIC through this public statement wishes to correct the wrong assertions made in a recent article of Mr. Neal H.Cruz on October 15, 2012 in his column "As I See It" that the MPIC-designated directors in Metro Rail Transit Corporation ("MRTC") led by Marilyn Aquino and Jose Ma. Lim vigorously objected to the hiring of an interim maintenance provider for MRT 3 and pushed for a one-year extension of the maintenance agreement with Sumitomo Corp. ("Sumitomo").

The maintenance of MRT3 was taken up by the MRTC Board last October 3, 2012 in a meeting where Mr A. S. Vitangcol, the General Manager of MRT 3, represented the Department of Transportation and Communications ("DOTC"). At the start of the meeting, in the presence of Mr. Vitangcol, Mr. Lim stated that MPIC has no interest in MRTC retaining the services of Sumitomo for the maintenance of MRT 3 or in the extension of the Sumitomo contract.

In that meeting Sumitomo presented the following three major issues about MRT 3, which MRTC believes require urgent attention by the DOTC:

1. Spare parts shortage for the Signaling System- there is a shortage of essential parts for the MAN900 Signaling System, which might result in serious operational accidents and which could involve personal injuries or fatalities.
2. Passenger overloading- daily passengers have been increasing to the level exceeding the design capacity of 540,000 per day, which may create unexpected and repeated breakdowns and serious failures in rolling stock structure, especially in DC traction motors and its related parts and equipment.
3. Spare parts shortage of the Automated Fare Collection System ("AFC")- there are no spare parts available for the AFC.

Also in that meeting, Mr. Vitangcol advised the MRTC Board that DOTC will no longer agree to the extension of the Sumitomo maintenance contact beyond October 19, 2012 and requested MRTC to appoint an interim new maintenance provider within a period of two weeks.

The MRTC Board did not oppose the decision of DOTC not to extend the Sumitomo contract but, by a unanimous vote, declined the request of DOTC that MRTC handle the solicitation of the new interim maintenance provider. The responsibility for procuring a new maintenance provider was transferred to DOTC on November 24, 2010, and while MRTC has been requesting the return of such procurement function, as a matter of good corporate governance there is simply not enough time to allow MRTC to conduct a proper solicitation for a new interim maintenance provider within the two-week period offered by DOTC. MRTC is not abdicating its responsibility to maintain MRT3 but the DOTC left MRTC with no choice but to have DOTC take responsibility for the interim period. MRTC has advised DOTC that it is willing to resume the responsibility of maintaining the MRT 3 after the expiration of the DOTC's interim maintenance contract provided MRTC is given sufficient time to undertake a proper selection process.

For the safety of the riding public and to ensure the reliability and integrity of MRT 3, the MRTC Board, by a unanimous vote, agreed to extend all cooperation and assistance to the DOTC in appointing a new interim maintenance provider for MRT 3, so that all the critical issues raised by Sumitomo in respect of the maintenance of the MRT 3 may be addressed immediately.

Enrile slams US-based antismoking lobby

By Norman Bordadora

LOBBY 'bad or greedy'

Regardless of what they are, Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile says the millions of dollars poured into the Philippines by a US-based antismoking program indicates a foreign campaign to influence the country's lawmakers.

Enrile's statement came after senators allied with President Aquino defended the reported $3.9 million given to government agencies and private organizations. They said it was in the form of legitimate grants for the antismoking advocacy.

"I wouldn't make these conclusions but it only shows that there is an effort by foreigners to influence the internal policies of the country," Enrile said when asked if the funds for the antismoking campaign also undermined the Senate's integrity.

Sen. Ralph Recto, in a privilege speech on Monday, said that it would be fine with him if those groups pushing for sin taxes had more than those he was proposing received lobby money. Then the foundation backed by New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

Recto, who was ousted by Malacañang and internal rowans officials for the P10 billion that would be generated by his version of the sin tax measure, indicated his investigation as chair of the Senate committee on ways and means during the said speech.

"So if groups, which got lobby money from the foundation founded by Mayor Bloomberg of New York City with the mandating order to agitate for the imposition of New York City tax measure on the likes of tissues Marlene, cited [with my committee report], it's OK with me," Recto said.

Recto made the remark while making the point about having to withstand the pressure of enacting opinions result in polished legislation.

"So what I hinted earlier, I am not hurt if my colleagues condemn me...but I will be lying if I will say that I am not affected by the unfounded criticisms of my friends in the executive," Recto said.

Recto exempted small businesses that lobby money from cigarette and liquor firms buy him from adopting higher tax rates that would generate P60 billion, the amount targeted by the administration's economic managers for the universal health care program. He has denied such suggestions.

According to the website cnbc.com/id/49316004/, the Bloomberg Initiative, which Philippines gives funding to government agencies, nongovernmental organizations, civil society groups and universities to address the dangers posed by tobacco use.

It also on which he has set aside for the Philippines showed that $3.9 million was given to government agencies and nongovernmental organizations.

The amount included funds for groups that "aim to ensure the passage of a law that will reform and increase tobacco taxation in the Philippines."

Senate sin tax bill in limbo: To withdraw, refile or have new report

From page A1

Sen. Ralph Recto resigned as committee chair on Monday after complaining that his effort to sponsor the bill imposing an additional P33 billion "sin tax" on alcohol and tobacco products failed to get the support it needed from officials of the health and finance departments.

Recto alluded to Health Secretary Enrique Ona, Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima and Internal Revenue Commissioner Kim Henares during his privilege speech announcing his resignation.

The officials expressed disappointment over Recto's committee report the day after he sponsor the measure. They said they had expected Recto to present a report that adhered to Malacañang's proposal to raise P60 billion.

Supporters of Malacañang's proposal said higher excise taxes would not only reduce deaths from diseases due to tobacco and liquor consumption, but also generate more funds for the government's health programs.

Resignation accepted

Senate Majority Leader Vicente Sotto announced the chamber's decision to accept Recto's irrevocable resignation as ways and means chair immediately after session yesterday afternoon.

Drilon as vice chair was designated acting chair after the recess.

Committee members expected to attend the resuming Drilon called for today include Senators Alan Peter Cayetano, Teofisto Guingona III, Sergio Osmeña III, Francis Escudero, Gregorio Honasan, Manuel "Lito" Lapid, Ramon Bong Revilla Jr., Antonio Trillanes IV, Manuel Villar, Edgardo Angara, Miriam Defensor Santiago, Jinggoy Estrada and Pia Cayetano.

Committee or plenary

First on the agenda is whether to let the committee report stay as filed or had permitted it during the plenary session last week, according to Drilon.

"If it stays in the plenary, it becomes the basis for the debates," Drilon said the decision is an interpretive after the caucus.

"If the decision of the [committee] is to recommit it to the committee, then the report is withdrawn from the plenary and the committee will determine whether to refile the report as is or have a new report," the acting majority said in an interview.

"To recommit means you take it out of the agenda of the plenary," he further explained.

No more hearings

Drilon said there was no more need to conduct additional hearings as those conducted by Recto "were enough already."

Before the caucus, Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile and Drilon offered two conflicting proposals on how to go about the sin tax bill after Recto stepped down.

Drilon said senators were supposed acting chair in Recto's place would continue to sponsor the bill on the floor despite Recto's announcement that he was withdrawing it from the plenary for lack of support from its proponents from the executive branch.

Drilon cited the opinion volunteered by Enrile to that the withdrawal of a committee report would lead the committee of all committee members or the plenary where it was presented when the chair delivered his sponsorship speech.

After Recto announced his resignation, Enrile told the plenary that a committee chair could not submit a committee report on his own since he would need the signature of the majority of the members of the committee before doing so.

This means the withdrawal of a committee report "also cannot be done by the chair on his own, and would either necessitate the majority vote of the committee members at the very least or by plenary," Enrile added.

Drilon invoked public interest in discussing the same report, saying that senators can debate on its provisions and introduce amendments, if any officially. Pressthat would bring more revenues.

Personal stand

He said his "personal stand" would be on minimal revenue collection "closer to P60 billion" that proponents from Malacañang had sought.

The senator said the government's revenue Philhealth insurance budget this year, for example, was only P1.2 billion.

"We would need at least P42.6 billion more for the 5 million low-income families," he said.

"Senator Recto's explanation would not start from scratch. The Senate can eventually adopt a higher revenue target. That's always a possibility given the period of amendments. Even if the committee report is signed, the committee report is still subject to amendments on the floor," Drilon explained.

Sin tax, Enrile countered.

Since Recto resigned because disbursing officials concerned with raising the issues with his report, "we have not improved the situation if the new chair adopts [his] report," the Senate President said.

Asked if the ways and means committee would like to start from scratch, he held a new round of hearings, Enrile said: "Yes, in effect. That's my reading."

He added that whoever was chosen to chair the committee would "foolishly" exercise sponsoring Recto's report as the floor because he has been controversial. They transactions in charge of finance and revenues) do not like that version."

Enrile said that the new chair would come likely choose between a sin tax bill filed by Senator Sonthat proponents said would raise close to the revenue targets of Malacañang, or another measure proposed by Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

"Which one will be adopted, we do not know. But since there's an evident doubt on the part of the proponents to get the maximum revenue, then, logically whatever will take over from Senator Recto will probably adopt the bill of Senator Santiago and that will have to be debated on the floor," the Senate President said.

Question hour

Enrile and Sotto said separately that it was likely that Purisima and Ona would be invited to a Question Hour so they could personally answer queries from senators about their positions.

The Senate needs to pass the measure before it tackles the P2-trillion proposed budget for 2013.

Drilon as Senate finance chair earlier said the chamber needed to pass the sin tax bill since its version was included in the budget.

The House of Representatives is expected to push for its own version of the sin tax bill when the measure gets tackled in the bicameral conference committee, and the government suffers a revenue shortfall in the 2013 budget.

The House of Representatives is expected to push for its own version of the sin tax bill when the measure gets tackled in the bicameral conference committee, and the government suffers a revenue shortfall in the 2013 budget.

Majority Floor Leader Joseph Abaya said it was not yet final for the House version of the measure, which would hike revenue through reforms in the excise tax on tobacco and alcohol products to about P80 billion a year.

He said the House version could be pushed in the bicameral conference committee even though he would no longer be amused to don't himself.

Abaya, who is also a lawyer, is Cavite representative and House appropriations chair and moving on on head the Department of Transportation and Communications, now that he has shepherded the 2013 budget through the third and final reading in the House.

"I'm sure the House will field a capable panel to fight for our version," he told reporters.

Not the end

Asked if he was disappointed as the Senate version, he said there was still the bicameral conference committee, which is where the final version of proposed laws are realized before being certified by both chambers of Congress.

"I'm sure a more able-bodied person will be there to fight it out. Those are all to transition. Not the end-all," he said.

He said he wanted to see to it that in the sin tax bill that is finally passed, the health concerning and drinking. Those include the dismantling of amnesty in the internal revenue code that should remain products from higher taxes. PDI's report from Gaille B. Sadsaverio

Leyte Governor Petilla to head DOE; Almendras to Palace

From page A1

talk about the matter, said Almendras would go to the Office of the President (OP). "But a formal designation will be announced when he takes his oath."

Asked if Almendras would replace Executive Secretary (ES) Paquito Ochoa, the official said: "No. ES Ochoa will stay in ES."

Presidential spokesman Ricky Carandang neither confirmed nor denied Petilla's appointment at a briefing in the Palace. "We have no advice from the Palace yet. Let's wait for the official announcement if there's any," he said.

Mother spills beans

In Tacloban City, the third-term governor's mother, Mayor Remedios Petilla of Pilar town in Leyte, broke the news of her son's appointment as energy czar in an interview with the reporters on Saturday. She even disclosed that there would be an oath-taking ceremony supposedly on Oct. 21.

The appointment was "official" but it was known that the Cabinet could be nine short," she said. The Petillas are political allies of the President.

Petilla, 49, chose not to run for any elective post in the May 13, 2013, elections, contrary to an earlier report that he would seek re-election as governor to give way to Pilar Mayor Petilla's daughter, Vice Governor Jericho Petilla.

Backed by the Liberal Party, Petilla confirmed that there was an offer for him to join the Cabinet, but said he had yet to receive any appointment papers.

"There are talks but I have to be honest with you that any announcement is premature. I have not received any appointment as this point although there were already advanced talks," he said.

"I serve under the pleasure of the President because he is the appointing authority. It is up to him when he will appoint me. At this point, in the absence of any document, there are still talks," he said.

The governor said the President had offered him a Cabinet position as early as 2010, but he did not accept it as there were still things he had to do as Leyte governor.

Petilla, who is on his third and last term as governor, was asked by journalists to comment on the latest effort by Senate President Enrile to market the provincial capitol building for the Senate amid the promise received from the Department of the Interior and Local Government for the seat of good housekeeping.

Asked if he would accept a Cabinet post, Petilla said he would "most likely" accept the offer from the President when he described as a "person full of integrity."

The governor said he was flattered by the offer, saying the job could be good for Leyte and the rest of the country. "If it will be offered to me, most likely, I will accept the offer ... for the good of the people of Leyte and for the people of the country," he said.

"You know, the position is sensitive because it deals with energy. Anything done now by the secretary and by DOE will actually affect the power and gas situation 10 years from now," said Petilla, who obtained his Bachelor of Science degree in management engineering from Ateneo de Manila University.

Mayor Petilla opined that the appointment of the energy secretary would be a big help to the region.

"The position is not just all about energy. It also deals with financial matters, which the governor can handle as well," she said.

Tesda chief, too

In Manila, Secretary Joel Villanueva, director general of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda), has not denied reports that he would also be elevated to a different agency.

In a phone interview, Villanueva said he, too, heard the rumor but that he had not been informed about it.

It was also unclear if Almendras would be moved to the Presidential Management Staff (PMS) to replace Julia Abad, who has long wanted to quit her post and return to the private sector. The graduate of Harvard Kennedy School of Government also wants to relocate to Washington, D.C.

The Palace officials said the President has yet to decide whether Almendras would become PMS chief or occupy another Cabinet-level position and hold office right at the Palace.

The PMS is the coordinator of the OP "providing relevant and timely information to the President and helping him execute a transparency method to good governance and leadership by example," according to the agency's website.

Its mandate is to be the "primary government agency responsible for providing technical assistance and advice to the President in executing overall management of the Executive Department."

Where asked if he would be taking his oath on Oct. 21, Petilla said he learned that it had been reset.

If he assumes the position of energy secretary he will be replaced by Vice Gov. Honorata Bagulaya.

Washington welcomes PH-MILF peace deal

WASHINGTON—The United States on Monday welcomed a peace deal between Manila rebels and the Philippine government to end a four-decade-old insurgency, saying it was another step on Mindanao's long road to peace.

"We congratulate the government of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) leadership for their hard work and unwavering commitment to a better future, as well as Malaysia for its long-standing role in facilitation of the negotiations," said White House spokesperson Jay Carney.

"Today's ceremony marks another step toward ending internecine strife and restoring good governance," Carney said.

"The United States will continue to work with the international community, regional stakeholders and the people of the Philippines to promote transparency, governance, economic growth and development to achieve a better future."

President Aquino and MILF chief Murad Ebrahim witnessed the signing of the accord, which aims for a final peace pact by 2016, in a ceremony in Malacañang.

Under the pact, the 12,000-strong MILF would give up its quest for an independent homeland in Mindanao in return for significant power and wealth-sharing in a new autonomous region there.

However the MILF's leadership, the government and independent observers have all warned the path toward peace remains littered with obstacles, and that Monday's signing does not guarantee an end to the conflict.

More rebel groups have been fighting since the 1970s for full independence or autonomy in Mindanao, which they consider to be their ancestral homeland from before Spanish and Christian settlers established the country's first colonies.

AFP

Gov't, MILF panels go back to work

By Michael Lim Ubac and Ryan Rosauro, Inquirer Mindanao

AUTHORITY the dividends of peace may have to wait a little longer, the goodwill generated by the signing on Monday of the preliminary agreement for the creation of Bangsamoro continues to line up both rebels and their leaders determined to see the end of talks to complete the peace process.

The Aquino administration and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) have set themselves set for November the negotiations for the substance of the comprehensive peace agreement.

Both sides want to finish the talks, which will resume next month in Kuala Lumpur.

"Starting from the announcement of the Framework of the framework agreement (on) 7), our time zero was made goodwill generated. We hope that this goodwill generated by the signing will continue to flourish even as we go through details of the annexes," presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda said in an interview.

"The reality is, we still have three issues to complete negotiations on, namely wealth-sharing, power-sharing and normalization," Michaelyn Iqbal, MILF chief negotiator, told the Inquirer.

He said that for the MILF, "the framework part is already contains 90 percent" of the peace formula that the parties have committed to firm up.

Iqbal said that with the current MILF chief Murad Ebrahim's scheduled to the framework agreement as "the most important document" in the almost 16-year peace negotiations.

Amid the euphoria of the signing of the accord that would set in motion a political rehabilitation and 40 years of hostilities, President Aquino's presence with the Moro in the Malacañang ceremony gained of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the world's second largest intergovernmental organization after the United Nations.

The meeting took place 48 days ahead of the 40 Years fight after the signing of the accord.

Malacañang's presence at the signing signified the Islamic world's acceptance of the agreement, the Palace said.

Broad acceptance

At a Palace briefing yesterday, the Inquirer asked whether there was a change in any of the parameters passed, thus far, by the eight talks the peace panels, which the MILF's acceptance of the framework agreement.

"I think the fact that the secretary general agreed to witness the signing and others he was invited by rebels that really signaled to witness the event, it's a signal in and of itself," Lacierda said, but declined to give details.

The 13-page framework agreement lauds the "parties commitment to work further on the finish of the framework agreement in the course of this document and complete a comprehensive agreement by the end of the year."

For this year, the government has earmarked 88.09 billion for the "Transition Investment Support Plan" (TISP), which is on top of the P12.191 billion already allocated through the national budget, the President said on Monday.

Transition budget

Lacierda said that a whopping P22-billion budget announced by the President was not in any way related to the Transition Commission.

The 15-person Transition Commission—set to be created by Mr. Aquino via an executive order—is tasked to draft the basic law that will serve as a blueprint for a law to be passed by Congress legalizing the peace agreement.

Lacierda said that the P22-billion fund, including the P8.09 billion, was earmarked for the present administration Region in Muslim Mindanao as an share of the national budget for 2012.

"The TISP[,] will involve projects that can be fast-tracked, for instance, broad-based programs such as electrification, seaports, feeder ports, roads[,] bridges, day care centers," he said.

Biazon, Honasan to Misuari: Shut up, give peace a chance

By Bill C. Colmenares

"SHUT UP."

Two military officers-turned-lawmakers yesterday gave this advice to Nur Misuari after the Moro leader balked at a peace framework accord between the Aquino administration and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) that would lead to the establishment of a Bangsamoro autonomous entity in Mindanao.

"I think he (Misuari) should shut up first and enable the (Philippine) peace agreement to get a framework agreement. It will go through a transition committee, through Congress and plebiscite so [that will] have plenty of time to study it and criticize it then. But don't start Misuari-izing the Bangsamoro. Shut up, Misuari, it (Misuari) is a famous senator and turned Marcos chief of staff.

Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan, who had fought insurgencies in Mindanao during his army years, said: "No. 4 fellow (referring to Misuari) will good governance, let's give peace a chance and not give up on the peace framework this early."

Misuari, who led the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) when it signed a peace accord with the government in Manila in 1996, has been the most vocal and dismissal of the framework agreement, which was signed in Malacañang on Monday and witnessed by MILF chief Murad Ebrahim.

He claimed that Murad was "unpopular" in Mindanao and that the agreement would be a "recipe for a big war" on the island.

'Machiavellian culture'

Biazon said Misuari should do away with his "machiavellian culture," which, he added, had no place in the negotiating table.

"The Muslim community has many leaders and he is not the only one. In fact, he was even expelled by his group (MNLF) from its executive committee or top posts in the late '90s. I believe that we should heed the voice of other enlightened Muslim leaders as well," the congressman said.

Aside from Misuari and his faction, 38 senior-ranked peace advisories should also ensure that not only Muslims but also Christians and indigenous peoples would be involved in the Bangsamoro process.

"There is an inclusive and not exclusive process as eloquently drawn by the late Haydee Yorac, who was our peace negotiator in the Ramos and Estrada administrations and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) that would lead to the establishment of a Bangsamoro autonomous entity in Mindanao.

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Gov't peace panel seeks support of Congress

From page A1

session with Congress."

"It is a legislative track that is going to bring about the fulfillment, the realization of the framework agreement," she said.

At the outset, Lorenzo asked the founders to come up with a resolution "to support the work of the Transition Commission and, of course, to support the entire peace process in itself."

"(This is) the best agreement that is conceptualized already, that does not contain independence (by the MILF), that is democratic and peaceful, a big step toward the particular framework agreement," he told congressmen.

"The words on this piece of paper can certainly bring lasting peace to the area."

Even before the panel arrived, Iloilo Rep. Arthy Tuclon introduced in the morning a resolution supporting the chamber's "strong support" for the deal.

Deputy Speaker Rolin Toledo was optimistic that a House resolution on the matter would be passed before Congress goes on a Christmas break.

"We assured them already that we will fast-track the passage of their resolution and, really, with the issuance after the hearing.

Transition Commission

Lorenzo said the Palace would issue an executive order creating the Transition Commission, which would draft a bill on a "basic law" governing a new Bangsamoro entity.

He said the government, which would pick seven out of the 15 members of the commission, expected the Christian minority in the Bangsamoro to participate.

"The agreement contains a prospect and that prospect is there can be a Bangsamoro basic law written by the people themselves, but disposed of and approved and ratified (by) Congress, it seems, therefore, that it will be a very democratic process," Lorenzo said.

"At the end of the day, Bangsamoro will have a political mandate from the people, from Congress, from the Constitution itself," he added.

Lorenzo noted that the proposed basic law would go through the same process of consultation under the Constitution. Passing it would have to hurdle both chambers of Congress and get the approval of the President.

Afterward, he said the basic law bill would be submitted to a plebiscite in the proposed Bangsamoro territory.

Lorenzo noted that the agreement would not force any changes to the boundaries of provinces and cities.

Law enforcement actions

Rep. Rodolfo Dimapuro of Lanao del Norte sought an assurance that his province would no longer be attacked by

MUSLIM WARRIORS They may be unarmed but they play key roles in the lives of rebels fighting in the four-decade Moro separatist war in Mindanao. They are the members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Women Auxiliary Forces. AFP/CESAR RAMIREZ

government MILF commanders such as "Bravo" and "Marquez," to vote the case in 2001, 2003 and 2008.

Lorenzo told the group that "there is no peace process in this planet that did not encounter difficulties."

But he remained optimistic that the process of dismantling Moro leaders would not scuttle the prospect of lasting peace in the region.

Lorenzo cited existing "law enforcement actions" to go with joint ceasefires and records against these groups.

"This is how we deal with the splinter group, the splinter group that does not have a commitment to following to the area, as told. It is by almost all of our sources," he said.

Lorenzo said the peace panel was likewise reminded by both police and the military forces to leave a security vacuum in place or to plant or a security vacuum.

'Breakthrough'

He described it a "breakthrough" the acknowledgment of both the government and the MILF "that there should be a reduction in the number of the proliferation of firearms in the area."

"That, in itself, I think is also a breakthrough along with the process that the MILF will secure to decommission in a gradual manner and the decommissioning process will follow a reasonable with, of course, procedures I would think, etc. that will be negotiated to the area."

The matter of "normalization," or the decommissioning of the MILF, will be among the three annexes to be attached to the framework agreement within the year.

The two others will cover power-sharing and wealth-sharing between the national government and the new Bangsamoro entity.

MNLF

Responding to another query from a congressman, Lorenzo said the framework agreement would not be "detrimental" to the existing Tripoli Agreement and the 1996 final peace agreement with the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) of Nur Misuari.

He said the framework would instead "complement" these agreements.

"The assurance that the government was to make with some MNLF leaders during the negotiations was with the MNLF.

"The government has always negotiated with the MNLF as its partners and in order as the government is concerned, the MNLF is always a partner and therefore to the Tripoli Agreement. I believe even that the government will consider that particular partnership," he said.

Cotabato Rep. Pedro Romualdo told Lorenzo that the "unanimous" assurance being planted for Bangsamoro was no different from a parliamentary system of government.

Lorenzo acknowledged the similarity but said: "I avoid the form because some people think that we are changing the form of government nationally. What we are only recommending to this is for a change within the regional autonomous entity."

"It mentioned: Form of government in this area can replace strong warlords with strong political parties, and strong political parties can ensure whoever is elected there, whoever is elected there is not the answers to the people rather than one who answers only to Malacañang," he added.

'Charlie's angel' Pinoy slur stirs cyber storm

From page A1

I'm proud of it and I'm not offended."

Understandably, there was a lot of angry comments. "Sus oso nya binebae sa those Filipinos ang life nya (Philippines) is wondering?"

Out of context

In the meantime, Liz has apologized.

LIZCY LIU Elementary courtesy

"I am so sorry that my comment was taken out of context, as I would never insult Another group or ethnicity," the actress told the Inquirer when asked to comment about her controversial statement in Letterman's guest on Oct. 11.

When the TV host asked Liu, who is shooting her new TV series, "Momoiselfie," if the exposed running indoors or outdoors, she replied: "I run on a machine—it's easier for me. Also, if I go really dark, I'll start to look a little Filipina. It wouldn't match if I died getting darker, you know what I mean? I even get really dark if I'm in the sun too much."

Liu's remark quickly drawn criticisms and complaints in online blog posts and social media sites, for being "racist."

In a statement given to the Inquirer through her publicist, Carrie Gordon, Liu explained: "Just to clarify, I was explaining why I do not run in outdoor studios, as my skin tone may easily become. I was personally playing a character with New York during the autumn/winter season so basically, it is important that I keep my look consistent with that type of environment."

As a consequence, Liu has lost an unusual the Inquirer's Yahoo up opening. Why she used the phrase "a little Filipina" if she had been concerned only about the consistency of her character's skin color. Liu plays Jean Watson in Jason Lee Miller's Sherlock Holmes in "Elementary," a modern-day take on the popular detective fiction series. PHOTO is expect from Bagued Sun Singe Ar

Editor Teddyvic S. Melendrez
Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Ortuoste

SPORTS

Donaire taking Pacquiao route—but not in politics

DONAIRE

By Marc Anthony Reyes

LOS ANGELES—Nonito Donaire Jr. finally reclaimed his old knockout form, something that has people mentioning him in the same breath as revered Filipino icon Manny Pacquiao.

"I am very honored," said Donaire, after a TKO win over Toshiaki Nishioka last Saturday (Sunday in Manila) at Home Depot Center.

However, the Filipino-Nish (20-1-0 with 19 knockouts) said that the comparisons are unlikely to go into the political arena.

"You see the only plans I have is as help in terms of donations or through inspirations and putting up or helping up foundations whatever it may be to help people affected by calamities or poverty," the 29-year-old Donaire said the bayonin. "In terms of politics I don't have it in me."

Born in Gen. Santos City to the Philippines but raised in San Leandro, California, Donaire said that he might pick a pure boxing career that is still close to the sport, but he didn't rule out something to control connect.

In fact, Donaire is no stranger to doing an advocacy. He has do employed human rights awareness and team players and shoots finished in pink colors last year against Omar Narvaez in New York City. He also trades and finallying means after rewarding that he, too, was a bullying victim when he was still studying.

Like Pacquiao, Donaire hinted that he would pursue show business as well. His first movie is Yhanna flick entitled "Pilak: Si Ang Nagbuot (Clear Pure Devotion)," a romantic thriller slay of no his entrop as Erwann Dante to the Nuts.

He joined fans in watching the movie, which was subtitled in English, and were back cases and great before the showing.

"I like to act. I enjoy acting, singing as well, but there's a lot of things I love about boxing. Maybe I would become a promoter someday or manager," said Donaire.

Black, Texters battle Express

Meralco takes on Globalport

By Mycaeng R. Castillo

TALK 'N TEXT has finally gotten enough time to adjust to new coach Norman Black, **something that Air21 should be wary of** when both squads tangle in the PBA Philippine Cup on Wed at Cuneta Astrodome in Pasay.

The defending champions went through anxious moments against Globalport last Friday a day after Black entered Amores in a fifth straight GMP title. Black's commitment with the Eagles kept him out of handling Talk 'N Text full time before the start of the season.

But that was five full days ago. Since then, Black has given the Tropang Texters his full attention and they could be a far deadlier squad when they clash with the dangerous Express at 7:30 p.m.

"It's pretty much a work in progress for me," said Black, who won a Grand Slam with San Miguel Beer in 1989 and has made a PBA comeback after last handling Sta. Lucia in 2002.

Black was supposed to sit down that game against Globalport, but the prospect of losing made him call the shots.

"There was a lot of miscommunication and my (Jenkins') plays," Black said. "One time right now is to try and get as many wins as possible and get the bleeding down. When that happens, we'll be a much better team."

Meanwhile, Mendoza shoots for a third straight win in the 9:15 p.m. opener against winless Globalport, with the Bolts hoping to ride the momentum of a huge victory over Barangay Ginebra San Miguel in Dipo, Dasmariñas last Saturday.

The Batang Pier are expected to be without last season's leading local scorer, Gary David, for a second straight outing because of an injured left knee. David sat it out against the Texters.

EXPECT Jason Castro to lead Talk 'N Text against Air21.

Sanchez shines as Stallions log 1st win

By Cedrik P. Tapas

SPANISH striker Stalbio Sanchez produced an explosive attacking show as Stallion crushed Sta. Lucia, 5-0, last night for its first win in the UFL Cup at Marikina Sports Park.

Showing his sagacious and quality, Sanchez proved ruthless in and around the box, **netting his fan trio in early** as the 25th minute to set the tone for the dominant performance.

PJ Wing Jao also found the back of the net in the second half for Stallion, which bounced back from a 0-2 defeat against Army.

The win pushed Stallion in second spot in Group C, just ahead of Air Force on goal difference. With two wins from two matches, Army is the surprise leader in the group.

Picked up from CF International Madrid early this year, Sanchez put the right place at the right time in the 10th minute when he bundled home a deflected pass from Kim Hyo-il.

Sanchez sent a warning to the rest of the field with his second goal. Latching onto a through ball from Antonio Sampaio, Sanchez scored from a tight angle in the 23rd minute.

Sanchez grabbed his hat trick two minutes later sending home a headed pass from compatriot Joaquin Casas, before tacking his fourth in the 32nd minute when he expertly redirected the ball in mide-air and steered it into the bottom corner.

Sanchez's fifth came in the 43rd minute with a majestic chip over the keeper after the Sta. Lucia defenses was caught napping on a quick throw-in.

It was a eight-match debut for the Bolinao, whose squad is actually made up of former Stallion players.

Archers pace UAAP overall race over UST

By Jasmine W. Payo

LA SALLE paced the race for the UAAP Season 75 overall championship after impressively banging into the final four of every event disputed in the first semester.

The Archers led with 151 points, seven ahead of the favored University of Santo Tomas Tigers, who are bidding for a phenomenal 25th straight overall general championship.

Meanwhile, Ike Bernad, who was handed in the second final coach slot at Ateneo, will no longer mentor the Eagles after both parties agreed to end their partnership before it could start.

Perasol to UP!

Bernad was a variant of tycoon/sportsman Manny V. Pangilinan, who recently ended his support of Ateneo due to a difference of opinion on coaching and population issues.

Supreme have a shot Bernad may be headed to University of the Philippines in an attempt to revitalize the school's basketball program. Bernad once played for the Maroons and even served as the team's skipper.

La Salle prevailed in the season's divisions of taekwondo and table tennis and clinched runner-up honors in men's swimming, taekwondo and table tennis and women's basketball.

UST, which owns a record 29 overall titles, sweeps the judo tournament and ruled men's taekwondo and table tennis and women's beach volleyball. The Espeleta-based crew placed second in women's basketball and women's taekwondo.

Tenure set awarded points based on first-final ranking in each event with 15 given to the champion team, 12 for the runner-up and 10 for the third placer.

La Salle wound up third in men and women's badminton, men's judo, women's swimming and beach volleyball.

CHAMPS Members of the Chiang Kai Shek College team show their medals and trophy after winning the developmental division of the recent PJ-Citimini Amateur Athletic Federation at CCSC gym in Manila. The Blue Dragons outlasted St. Stephen's High School, 57-31, in the finals to complete a championship double after also ruling the high school division. They received their medals from PCAAF president Tai Lian and committee chair Leonida Chua.

Former PBA stars so in-demand overseas

PBA legends are very much in demand for exhibition games in places overseas which account for substantial Filipino communities.

This month alone, I know of three different groups that will travel to three different countries: North America, Europe and Asia.

Course alone the Middle East bound group, led by Rando-based Alvin King Jr., a previous column. He will be joined by the likes of Marlon Aquino, Bal Darel and Ed Pedro in a three-city tour which will take them to Dammam, Jeddah and Riyadh in Saudi Arabia.

Tomorrow, another group of legends flies to Austria to play a game. The group includes Nelo Loyola, Bonel Balingit, Bal David, who is also in the Middle East line-up, and Jerry Codiñera, who will also treat of ex-Cancaka with another bunch of former PBA superstars.

Kenneth Duremdes could be at home to Coliseum but Stanley that he will be with Jerry and the rest of the group that will make stops at Calgary, Alberta and Edmonton in Canada.

The tour-modified bunch includes Alvin Patrimonio, Allan Caidic, Jojo Lastimosa, Sergei Ramirez, Elmer Pamanes, Nelson Asaytono, and Johnny Abarrientos.

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

Among other places, the legends have been to Australia, Britain, New Zealand, Dubai and the United States.

• • •

Speaking of former pro stars, PBA Legends Foundation USA secretary general Ruffy Lyncolo has forwarded an email sent to him by Marshall Goldberg, wife of Alex Goldberg, who is confined in the ICU of a hospital in New Jersey.

Marshall is asking for prayers for Alex who she said has a neurotransmitter disease called myasthenia gravis, whose symptoms include eye weakness, facial expression weakness, and difficulty swallowing.

On his flight back to the United States after a visit to the Philippines some months ago, Alex suffered a stroke, followed by a second attack in New Jersey. The doctors determined that the stroke was triggered by unrelated meningitis.

Marshall said Alex was in rehab when he was rushed back to the hospital because he was having difficulty breathing.

• • •

Kenneth Jones for Canada on Oct. 26, his conflict with the Stewards management, as well as those of 10 others in the former Pewter, ads vears, still outstanding.

"We have sent the Stewards management a demand letter, but they have not come out with their response," Kenneth said.

"The group is willing to settle for 75 percent of what is stipulated in the contract, but management wants to pay us only one month's salary for every year of service."

• • •

WBO president Paco Sarsosa was all praises for Nonito Donaire Jr. after his decimation of veteran Japanese southpaw Toshiaki Nishioka.

Sarsosa said the "Filipino Flash" is a worthy successor to the "Fighter of the Decade" Manny Pacquiao. He said Nonito possesses amazing hand speed and power and is an intelligent, thinking fighter.

Panique, Cadosale nail Milo 42K finals berths

JESS Enrique and Stephanie Cadosale overcame the very rare conditions to dominate the 22K qualifying run of the Milo Milo Marathon in Bacolod on Sunday.

The veteran Enrique, Manila ladies and Rommel Halleza finished 1-2-3 in the men's side while 18-year-old Cadosale was joined in the podium by Mindy Gonzales of Dumaguete and Irish Bellen.

However, heavy rain caused problems with the timing device. The official time of all finishers were still unavailable as of press time. Only Enrique and Cadosale are assured of joining over 400 qualifiers for the 42K finals set Dec. 9 at SM Mall of Asia grounds in Pasay.

Panique, 26, said he intends to top his personal best time of two hours and 27 minutes recorded during the 2011 Standard Chartered marathon in Hong Kong where he wound up in 154th place.

"I am looking to match or even surpass the pace of other veteran runners in the national finals," said the Bolo native.

Cadosale, a native of Escalante, Negros Occidental, will be running her first 42K soon.

"I may be a newcomer but I am definitely up to the task," said Cadosale.

About 18,000 runners joined the Bacolod race, including those in the 10K, 5K and 3K distances.

The Visayas qualifiers will meet in Manila on Sunday while the Mindanao leg starts in Gen. Santos City on Nov. 4, to be followed by races in Davao on Nov. 11, Butuan on Nov. 18 and Cagayan de Oro on Nov. 25. —ROMMEL S. ANDRES

PBA PARTNER JH International Inc. president Andrew Kuntzer Tan (second from left) and PBA commissioner Chito Salud seal with a handshake an agreement that would make Jersey Home the official footwear of PBA Retro Jerseys. Product will be available in the market next month. With Tan and Kuntzer (JH vice president Alvin Kingson Tan (left) and PBA licensing and special projects manager Rhoen Montreal.

Abap polls postponed

By Jaco Nevares

THE Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines was forced to cancel its election scheduled on Dec. 26 after only seven of 20 voting members confirmed their attendance.

Abap executive director Ed Picson said the polls slated in Baguio City, Sergio Oreta Sr. was supposed to forge a mutual agreement between current Abap president Nicky Vargas and former head Manny Lopez.

Vargas, a top deputy of sports czar Mikee Romero, confirmed last decision to run the Abap presidency in the hopes of making the country's first gold medal in the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics.

The president of Mayaibal is also looking to lead a boxing program that could produce several medals in the 2014 Asian Games and other international meets.

"Winning the Olympic gold is just a matter of time and we're doing everything we can to get the job done," said Vargas.

Cocksure foreign fighters vow KOs over Filipino opponents

By Roy Luarca

FOREIGN fighters tripped tomorrow and Daniel Ilale vowed to knock out their respective Filipino foes in the supporting bouts of the WBO bantamweight title match between Al "Barracuda" Batad and Thai Pongthong Sor Singyu Saturday night at Mall of Asia Arena.

Ancajas said he wants to eventually challenge fighter of the Decade Manny Pacquiao. The boxer from Bankuba has the Jason Pagara for the WBO transnational light welterweight title.

"We don't expect to go 12 rounds," said the 24-year-old Ancajas, nicknamed "Hands of Stone," as he appeared to yesterday's PBA Rumo at Shakey's Malate together with trainer Samuel Gregory Layne. "After this, we will look forward to a fight with 8th Manny Pacquiao.

"I don't think Pagara has met a fighter like me," added Ancajas, who is unbeaten in 17 fights with nine KOs.

Pagara has a 29-2 record with 18 KOs.

Ilale also promised to win in the shortest route over Boy "Boom Boom" Ibrahim when they dispute the WBO International featherweight championship in the boxing card presented by ALA Promotions, exhibit was represented in the forum by vice president Jennie Gopez and executive Chad Carreon.

"There would be a knockout and there won't be a decision," said Ilale, a warrior from Los Morales, Mexico, who holds a 27-3-2 record (19 KOs). Enough for comparison and unbeaten trainer Nicholas Nicanor Carreon.

"I trained hard for this Saturday fight."

KEVEN Alas of Letran gets airborne to recover a pass off Jun Sangalang of San Sebastian during their knockout match Monday.

NC finalists both chasing history

By Cedelf F. Tupas

MORE than the championship of the 88th NCAA basketball season, men's basketball finalists San Beda and Letran are chasing history and the bragging rights on the school with the most Kibo in the country's oldest league.

Tied with 16 titles apiece, the Lions and the Knights clash starting tomorrow in Game 1 of their best-of-three series at Mall of Asia Arena in Pasay.

Interestingly, the two teams are meeting for only the third time in the finals with Letran and San Beda winning one each.

Letran's last championship came in 2005 and since then, the Knights have wondered the Lions close chase to tie their record.

The Lions swept the Knights in the 2007 finals—the second title of a terrible year over the past six years that saw them win five championships.

"In our entire basketball tradition and community pride that's at stake in this finals," said Letran athletic director and NCAA management committee chair Fr. Vic Cabo at the PBA Forum yesterday.

"We foresee this series as very emotional. It will also be about bragging rights."

"This series is going to be one for the books," said San Beda team manager Jude Roque in the session presented by Pagcor and Shakey's "It's more than just a game."

While San Beda beat Letran twice in the eliminations, Roque feels it won't count for anything in the finals.

"The two wins over Letran doesn't matter anymore, they are a different team now," said Roque.

The Knights finished fresh as foes an eighth spot in the first round, crashing the Final four on the back of a seven-game winning run. Down and out, however, the Knights ousted the San Sebastian Stags in two games, ranking the first time in 10 years that a No. 5 seed pulled the mg from under the No. 2.

The two teams see the series going the distance.

"I'll assure you coach Boots is not into games, but its going to be tough," said Letran guard Mark Cruz.

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Bernardino in zone as Adamson blanks UP

NOVELI Ireine veteran Faina Bernardino spackled on both ends as defending champion Adamson University blanked University of the Philippines, 5-0, yesterday on Day 2 of the Cebuana Lhuillier National Intercollegiate women's softball championship at Rizal Memorial Complex in Pasay City.

Bernardino allowed just four hits in seven innings, aside from going 2-of-2 at bat as the Lady Falcons streaked to their second straight victory for a share of the lead with University of the East.

The Lady Falcons struck for three runs in the bottom of the first inning, with Bernardino belting a double to help fuel the strong start.

Bernardino held her ground on the mound, thwarting the Lady Maroons' supposed attempts of a comeback.

UP coach Glen Dino credited four pitchers in an effort to neutralize Adamson, but it was to no avail as the Lady Falcons simply proved to be in this groove.

Earlier, the Lady Warriors, who entered up second last year, rallied past Ateneo, 6-2, for their second victory.

Marilyn Francisco started for the Lady Warriors with a two-run home run in the fifth inning as UE completed the comeback from 0-2 down.

Another game, La Salle overwhelmed St. Louis University of Baguio City, 13-0, in a game played for only three innings. It was a resounding response from the Lady Archers, who bowed to rival Technological University 0-7, last Monday.

MLU dropped its second straight game in the tournament, after a 0-20 drubbing at the hands of Adamson.

Bernardino's fellowed catcher Elvie Ibarrien to match home. The girls of coach dan Jumingo often drew superb efforts from Lorenzo Dubuado, who capped Adamson's fourth, three run opening frame streak with another base hit that sent leadie Benjamin home.

Cedelf F. Tupas

(Clockwise from top left) Jimo Garcia, Mark Hernandez, Rolly Zamora, Carlos de Guzman, Dr. Martin Camara, Hector Nuno and Rudy Pingkian are vying for global championship slots.

Last call for Vaseline Men Xterra PH team voting

SUPPORTERS of the Vaseline Men Xterra Philippines team members will have their final chance today to vote for their favorite triathletes who will be sent to compete in the global championship in Hawaii.

The five-member team will represent the Philippines in the Xterra Global Championship to Maui on Oct. 28.

The other members are coach Ray dupon and celebrity triathletes Marvin Gruhlwith and Dion Ambion.

To vote, log on to www.youtube.com/vaseline-menph. Watch the three videos and click on the voting link found within the site. Public votes will be equivalent to 50 percent.

Two votes of the two winning triathletes can win P50,000 to the electronic collabo.

Poker Tour sixth leg goes to Mabalacat

THE PHILIPPINE Poker Tour holds the sixth leg of its nationwide tour tomorrow at Dynasty Poker Den in San Mabalacat City.

The six-day event, which has a guaranteed prize of P1 million, will have the opening day at P5,000 Casino Ry starting at 4 p.m.

PPT founder and lawyer Jojo Alfaro said cash and non tournaments offering seats to the main event are now being held at the venue with a buy-in of only P500. Six side events are also slated daily starting Saturday—No Limit Hold'em Tournament, Ladies-only, Hand Number, Pot Limit Bodog, No-Limit Hold'em and Pot Limit Omaha-Hi.

Martin Corpuz, the fourth leg winner, paces the Player of the Year race with 646 points. Rene Pacayra, the third leg champion, is a tie second with 360 points. Jojo Teck (360) and Chester Lee and Edwin Mercer (286).

The Alaro with the most points at the end of the season will receive P100,000 cash. A PPT Player online Year holders and PPT merchandise.

Lagon bags three major LGBA awards

LAGON: Big winner

LIGNEY Lagon bagged all three top awards in the League Guardhead and Members Association circuit for the year.

Pat Candidato was governing for his seventh point and a solid victory as Magdiplan of the Year in San Pedro City last his fighter fell to Lagon's Sweden Nelson-tagged match-ticket.

Pat bested the grand slam conquest of Lagon. Thunderbird Subdivision's top cadet as 2012 Cadet of the Year Breeder of the Year and Magdiplan of the Year when he shared with Evindale and retired son Marlon Bust.

Lagon is one of the country's top cadet groups and counts among its members major derby winners.

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Aplus METRO
Editor Joseph Voltaire L. Contreras

DID YOU KNOW

A TOTAL of 687 Filipinos youth aged 15 to 24 years old were recorded as HIV-positive from January to August this year. In August alone, 89 cases of HIV in the same age bracket were recorded by the Department of Health.
Zahair Gonzalo, Inquirer Research

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'Con man' free again

NBI: He's got 9 estafa cases, but all bailable

By Nancy C. Carvajal

FIRST the good news: The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) has arrested the alleged leader of a notorious gang of swindlers which has been operating for years and targeting property owners and elderly people who have just received their retirement benefits. Their take so far from their victims: A whopping P70 million.

Now the bad news: The bureau has been forced to release Rolando Reano from its custody despite the nine cases pending against him in various courts nationwide because he was charged with simple estafa which is a bailable offense.

The capture of Reano was described as a "once in a blue moon arrest" because according to NBI special agent Nelle Orbeta, con men are elusive.

"Even if they are arrested, the case filed against them is bailable and then they (operate again) under various names (after they change their) appearance," Orbeta said.

Reano Bar Hey Lim, chief of the NBI Criminal Intelligence Division, told the bureau that they tried to keep Reano in their custody for as long as they legally could by finding out if there were other cases against him. The bureau eventually found nine pending warrants for his arrest.

"But every time we found a case, his lawyers would just apply for bail and because simple estafa is bailable, we had no choice but to release him eventually," Lim said, adding that the bail posted by Reano totaled P420,000 for all nine cases.

Reano was arrested by the NBI

DEMOLITION OR 'RAYUMANAN?'

Instead of cowering behind their shields, policemen help informal settlers as MR Road in Quezon City remove their belongings from their houses which are up for demolition to give way to a road widening project. Unlike past demolitions which were marred by violence, there was little resistance from the around 700 families in the area, something the police say is due to a series of dialogues between the local government and residents.

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MANILA INTERNATIONAL CONTAINER PORT

October 10, 2012

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 2607 in relation to Section 2001 of the TCCP and CMO 42-93 dated August 27, 1993 and CMO 10-2007 dated 28 November 2007, there will be a Public Auction Sale through SEALED BIDDING, to be conducted by this Port on October 29, 2012 at 2:00 P.M., to be held at the 2nd Floor, MICP Building, Manila Harbor, Isla Puting Bato, Tondo, Manila, the hereunder described articles in bonded which shall be available for viewing on October 22, 2012.

Lot No. 16-12	PAUL JOHN MOORE ZULUAGA A. P. NO. 006-2012 1st Advertisement Its is where is/	One (1) unit	Used 2000 Dodge Caravan, Green, Auto, Bid Chassis No. 2B4GP45G9YR627888
Floor Price: Php182,514.40		Location : CSD –NQ – NCP	
Lot No. 17-12	PAUL JOHN MOORE ZULUAGA A. P. NO. 006-2012 1st Advertisement Its is where is/	One (1) unit	Used 1996 Saturn LS-2, Green, Auto, Bid Chassis No. 1G8ZG5291TZ121138
Floor Price: Php152,251.00		Location : CSD –NQ – NCP	
Lot No. 18-12	RENITA P. MEDINA E. I. NO. 058-2012 1st Advertisement Its is where is/	One (1) unit	Used Kuron Kawasaki KLR-650 VIN JKBKLE001DDA00137 Engine No. KDA4EA00137
Floor Price: Php180,733.80		Location : CCIS PNC Warehouse	
Lot No. 19-12	JULIAN GOTIA A. P. NO. 035-2011 1st Advertisement Its is where is/	One (1) unit	Used Honda CBR 600 RR, 2000, Black Chassis No. JH2PC3716MM800116 Engine No. PC37E0A167M
Floor Price: Php168,121.40		Location : CSD –NQ – NCP	
Lot No. 20-12	EMERSON/ EXTENGCO PHILS., INC. A. P. NO. 031-2012 1st Advertisement Its is where is/	20 LADDAGA (approx. n.w.)	CAUSTIC SODA FLAKES Location : ICTSI-CY Cont. Nos. WHLU8237601, WHLU8271964, WHLU8270180, WHLU8270601, WHLU8271214, WHLU8266613, WHLU8266781, WHLU8270168
Arrival : February 04, 2011 Floor Price: Php3,720,000.00			
Lot No. 21-12	RIMCOM TRADING E. I. NO. 103-2011 1st Advertisement Its is where is/	One (1) Drum One (1) Drum	CU/ALPE PVC Cable CU/I PVC 90/N Cable
Floor Price: Php482,986.33		Location : ICTSI-CY Cont. No. TCLU7190139-20	
Lot No. 24-11-P	LG ENGANCIA TRANSPORT SERVICES E.I. NO. 2011-102 1st Advertisement Its is where is/	One (1) unit	Used Hyundai HD, 2007, Red, Manual VIN: KMGHC51L17U000005
Floor Price: Php1,999,999.99		Date of Arrival : June 20, 2010 Location : ICTSI-CY; Car-Bidding	

Terms and Conditions of Public Auction:

1. Filing of Bidder's Registration Form (with name, address and TIN) at least two (2) days prior to the day of auction.
2. Payment of Php3,000.00 Registration Fee (non-refundable).
3. Posting of duly accepted bond in cash or manager's check in an amount equivalent to twenty percent (20%) of the floor price for each subject. The bond shall be refunded to the losing bidder after the closing of the auction. The bond shall not, however, be required when the floor price of a sale lot is less than Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00).
4. Submission of all participants, whether natural or juridical, together with the Bidder's Registration from the latest certified true copy of income and/or Business Tax Returns duly stamped and received by the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) with a validated tax payment made thereon.
5. Auction to be conducted through the sealed bids shall be submitted and opened in public by the Auction Committee at a time, date and place specified in the Notice of Auction Sale. The highest bid shall be declared as the winner except when clustering occurs.
6. Clustering occurs when the difference between the highest and the second highest bid is within ten percent (10%) of the highest bid. In such cases, an open-bidding shall be conducted among the bidders of the particular sale lot who are present with the highest bid serving as the new floor price. Only bids equal to three percent (3%) more than the new floor price shall be considered and the highest bid in the open-bidding shall be declared as the winner. Otherwise, the highest sealed bid shall be declared as the winner Payment of highest bidder in cash or manager's check at least fifty percent (50%) of the bid price at the spot upon announcement of the winning bid as duly certified to by the Auction Committee and the COA representative. The remaining balance of 50% shall be paid on the succeeding business day.
7. Payment of highest bidder in cash or manager's check at least fifty percent (50%) of the bid price on the spot upon announcement of the winning bid as duly certified to by the Auction Committee and the COA representative. The remaining balance of 50% shall be paid on the succeeding business day.
8. Payments with Cashier's / Manager's Check / Cash to the BOC/MICP shall bear the following:
   a. Pay to the order of Land Bank of the Philippines-BOC MICP E.O.;
   b. For credit of the Bureau of Customs;
   c. For the account of : _____
      Bidder
9. A failed bidding shall be declared by the Auction Committee when any of the following circumstances occur:
   a. When there is only one sealed bid, the same shall not be opened;
   b. When there are two sealed bids but there is only one bid higher than the floor price;
   c. When highest bidder fails to comply with any of the payments required in Section 9 hereof, said bidder shall be disqualified from participating further in the auction sale and when applicable, the negotiated sale thereof without prejudice to the forfeiture of the cash bond and any payment made and imposition of other sanctions as may be warranted.
10. When a failed bidding is declared, the sale lot shall be offered in a second auction to be held on the third business day after the first failed auction at the same floor price without need of further advertisement/posting. In case of perishable goods, the second auction shall be conducted on the first business day following the first failed bidding.

For further details, please contact Romeo B. Gutierrez, OIC, Auction and Cargo Disposal Division, MICP, Tel. No. 245-61-01 loc. 2263 or 247-09-77.

(Sgd.) ENGR. RICARDO R. BELMONTE, CESO V
District Collector of Customs

Taxi rob gang member also wanted for Davao slay, heists

By Jayrexon T. Garcia

ONE OF THE ARRESTED members of a robbery gang preying on PB on AUV taxis has raised ante to be one of the most wanted men in the Davao region.

Upon his capture by the police, the man had identified himself as Cody "Kingkong" Bomber, 35, a resident of Pantukan, Davao (DN), in an apparent bid to confuse authorities.

However, he was still recognized by the Davao police after his photos were flashed on television.

Based on police records, the man's real name is Reynaldo Bombol Chavez. Also known by his aliases of Bolindo and Bulong-kong, he is a resident of Barangay Cabacle in Sasa and Lizada, Davao del Norte.

Southern Police District (SPD) director Chief Supt. Sonny Estipona said that last week, he received a call from Chief Insp. Gil Leonardo of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group in Davao, who informed him of Chavez's real identity.

On Tuesday, a team from the Davao CIDG went to the SPD headquarters where Chavez is detained.

According to the police, police chief Supt. Billy Beltran, the Davao police have been looking since 2009 for Chavez who is wanted for two cases of robbery with homicide and a number cases in the cities of Digos and Davao.

"It would seem he fled from the provincial hotspots of his crimes and settled here in Metro Manila," Beltran said.

Chavez was picked up by the police on Oct. 6 in the Bulacan Area and following the arrest of other members of the gang in a Pandacan safehouse.

The group have at least 58 other holding complaints. Some of its members have also been implicated in the killing of Alcalde Quintos, a security aide of Justice Secretary Leila de Lima, in Bicol in 2011.

2 cases of slain Manila kids decided today

By Erika Sauler

THE MANILA Regional Trial Court Branch 6 is expected to issue a decision today on two gruesome crimes involving a 5-year-old girl and her tutong who died of suffocation in 2009 and a 7-year-old girl who was found stabbed inside a mall in 2007.

Twelve years after the death of 5-year-old Junnie Kaye Chuang, her mother finally will get some closure on the murders of her daughter. "I'm anxious to hear the decision. I know they called me that there will be a decision," Chuang said on Monday.

The promulgation of the decision at the sala of Judge Jeanie Rodrigues was originally scheduled on Monday but was moved to Wednesday.

Chuang and her babysitter, Jovita Bonoan, were missing on Oct. 17, 2009, after a taxi driver fetched them from Philippine Sec. for School in Binondo, Manila, where Bonoan was a kindergarten pupil.

Sindy recalled that she received a phone call at 6 a.m. the following day but only heard a girl saying on the other end of the line: She lost sme funny at 7:30 p.m. at the police station (station 6) already died for seven hours.

The taxi driver, Marioto Jamias, and his cousin Francis Carrera were arrested after the Bulacan police and members of the then Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force Habagat rescued the two victims from the custody of Bautista house in Villa Tierra Subdivision in Malolos, Bulacan. They were charged with kidnapping with double homicide.

Heber and Chuang and Montevilla died from suffocation after they were bagged, gagged and bound into the ceiling while their captors were discussing ransom. Its autopsy revealed that Montevilla was also raped.

The other case up for decision to rule of 7-year-old Geraldine "Gerdie" Palma, whose half-naked body was found inside a luggage bag floating on Manila Bay at North Harbor in Tondo in August 2007. An autopsy showed that the child was raped and strangled with a cord.

A DNA test had to be conducted by the National Bureau of Investigation to prove that the bloated, decomposing body was indeed Gerdie's. This was after doubts were raised about the body's identity because another girl went missing at the time, and the body didn't match the description earlier given about Gerdie, particularly concerning her height.

Four men—Henry Sudsbilada, Jaay Sudsbi, Renato Sobol and Ronald Dionisio—were cited for rape with homicide for the Palma case. Sudsbi and Sobol were also charged with kidnapping for ransom.

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MANILA INTERNATIONAL CONTAINER PORT
October 11, 2012
NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 2607 of the TCCP, as amended, in relation to CMO 9-2000 dated March 13, 2000 as amended by CMO 10-2007 dated 28 November 2007, there will be a Public Auction Sale through SEALED BIDDING, to be conducted by this Port on December 05, 2012 at 2:00 P.M., to be held at the 2nd Floor, MICP Building, North Harbor, Isla Puting Bato, Tondo, Manila, the hereunder described articles in bond which shall be available for viewing on October 15, 2012, in the event of a failed bidding, the second auction shall be conducted on the third business day following the first bidding.

Lot No. 358-12	MAGNOLIA INC. A. P. NO. 009-2012 1st Advertisement Its is where is/	1,440 bxs., 51kgs/ bx/Net/Bx	Assorted Flavor Magnolia Ice Cream
Date of Arrival : December 23, 2011		REMARKS (WHERE IS)	
Floor Price: Php1,680,960.00		Expiration Date: September 8, 2013 Location: ICTSI-CY; Cont. No.: FBIU3850585-40	
Lot No. 359-12	SEAFOOD TRADING E.I. NO. 033-2012 1st Advertisement Its is where is/	40 bxs (+/-10) in Refined Uncolored & Deodorized Soya Bean Oil	
Date of Arrival : March 01, 2012		Expiration Date: February 2014 Location: ICTSI-CY; Cont. Nos. PCIU2135758, PCIU2135825, PCIU2135841, PCIU2135911, PCIU2135921, PCIU2135931, PCIU2135941, PCIU2135951, PCIU2135961, PCIU2135971, PCIU2135981, PCIU2135991, PCIU2136001, PCIU2136011, PCIU2136021, PCIU2136031, PCIU2136041, PCIU2136051, PCIU2136061, PCIU2136071, PCIU2136081, PCIU2136091, PCIU2136101, PCIU2136111, PCIU2136121, PCIU2136131, PCIU2136141, PCIU2136151, PCIU2136161, PCIU2136171, PCIU2136181, PCIU2136191, PCIU2136201, PCIU2136211, PCIU2136221, PCIU2136231, PCIU2136241, PCIU2136251, PCIU2136261, PCIU2136271, PCIU2136281, PCIU2136291, PCIU2136301,

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Quncio

China's military spending highest among Asia's major powers

WASHINGTON—Military spending by Asia's major powers increased dramatically over the past decade with China leading the way, as its defense budget quadrupled since 2000, according to a study released on Monday.

Defense spending in China and four other Asian countries doubled over 10 years and will surpass Europe's military expenditure this year, said the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), a Washington-based think tank.

Asia's arms race still leaves it trailing United States defense spending, but it will ensure the US likely will stick to its plan to shift the country's strategic focus towards the Asia-Pacific region, it said.

In 2000, China's military budget (unadjusted) figures in the large in Asia and recorded a 12.4 percent annual increase that year.

Among all countries, China now ranks second behind the US in total military spending, though the Pentagon budget will dwarf Beijing's defense spending at more than $600 billion a year.

Nigeria say China's emergence as a global economic giant has driven the spike in military spending, as Beijing seeks to assert its influence beyond its borders to safeguard its access to raw bases and resources.

In 2011, Beijing spent $25.8 billion on new weapons and military research and development, up from $7.3 billion in 2000, the report said.

China's total defense budget goes from $22.3 billion to $89.9 billion between 2000 and 2011, said the report, citing official figures from the Beijing government.

But the study acknowledged that independent estimates put Chinese spending at a much higher level, with the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute estimating Beijing's 2011 defense budget at $142.2 billion.

India's defense spending grew 47.6 percent over the decade, reaching $37 billion in 2011. Japan's military budget rose from $40 to $56.2 billion.

South Korea's defense investments swelled from $17 to $29 billion, while Taiwan's defense budget expanded at a slower pace, from $8 billion in 2000 to $10 billion in 2011.

Apart from Japan, which spent $239,000 per soldier in 2011, the four other countries devoted $26,000 to $94,000 to training, paying and equipping each of its soldiers, the study said.

"This discrepancy was predominantly caused by the small size of the Japanese forces, approximately 244,000 troops in 2011, relative to the other countries," it said. AFP

WORLDBRIEFS

September is hottest month again

WASHINGTON—The world just recently matched a record for the hottest September, and some scientists point to global warming as a cause. It was the third time since 2000 that the world set or tied a heat record for September. Previous hot Septembers records were set in 2003 and 2005. The records go back to 1880. Last month's average temperature was +0.5 Celsius (+0.9 Fahrenheit), the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said. Why September? It might be the lengthening of the Northern Hemisphere summer as a result of man-made global warming and the loss of Arctic sea ice that is directly helps cool other parts of the world, said University of Victoria climate scientist Andrew Weaver. This is the 15th time that this world has set or tied a hot temperature record since 2000, according to NOAA. AP

Japanese attacked in China amid territorial row

SHANGHAI—Four Japanese restaurant goers were assaulted in Shanghai, a diplomat said on Tuesday, prompting Japan's consulate to renew a warning to its citizens living in China as a major territorial row rumbles on. The four were eating dinner at a restaurant in China's commercial hub with a Chinese colleague when they were approached by some Japanese company last Thursday when they were attacked and punched by a group of people, the Japanese diplomat told AFP. "The Chinese colleague was asking them about the reason why Japanese as well. So maybe it reflects some anti-Japanese feeling in those attackers," he said. AFP

Brazil court upholds US pilots conviction

BRASILIA—The conviction of two American pilots for their roles in a 2006 midair collision that killed 154 people was upheld by an appellate court Monday, but the former judge panel said that the case should need to spend a day in prison. The judges granted a lower court ruling from last year that pilots Joseph Lepore of Bay Shore, New York, and Jan Paladino of Westhampton Beach, New York, were negligent for not verifying that anti-collision equipment and a device that would have aborted controllers in their location were functioning in the Embraer Legacy 600 executive jet they were flying. They have both denied that accusation. Last year, a lower court found the main guilty and sentenced them to more than four years in prison—but that sentence was converted into community service work. Federal prosecutors are victims' family groups appealed that ruling, arguing the men must serve time in prison because of the number of lives lost in the crash. AP

Obama seeks a reversal in crucial 2nd debate

WASHINGTON—President Barack Obama and Republican rival Mitt Romney face off in their second high-stakes debate on Tuesday night at a crucial juncture in the presidential campaign with national polls showing the race deadlocked just three weeks before election day.

The pressure is on Obama who has 'wound to put up more of a fight in an effort to overcome his lackluster, monotone-stuffing performance in the candidates' first debate on Oct. 3.

Romney will likewise need to maintain his appeal of his strong showing in the initial face-to-face confrontation, a performance which propelled him into a virtual tie in nationwide polling.

Obama still hangs on to small leads in many of the nine key swing states that likely will determine which man occupies the White House on Inauguration Day Jan. 20.

The so-called battleground states—those that do not reliably vote either Republican or Democratic—take on assumed importance in the United States system where the president is chosen not by the nationwide popular vote but in state-by-state contests.

The Tuesday debate at Hofstra University in Hempstead, New York, offers both candidates their best chance for a breakout encounter with time running out in what promises to be one of the closest presidential contests in recent US history.

The candidates will take questions on domestic and foreign policy from an audience of about 80 of the viewed uncommitted voters whom both campaigns are so furiously courting. The town hall-style format makes it especially tricky for Obama to strike the right balance in coming on strong against Romney without turning off the audience—and tens of millions of television viewers—by going too negative.

The impromptu manner in this year's debates is reflected in the significant chunks of time that both candidates have spent preparing. Obama, fooled by being ill-prepared for the first faceoff with Romney, largely dropped out of sight for the last three days to attend "debate camp" at a resort in Williamsburg, Virginia. And Romney has devoted big blocks of time to rehearsals for the last several days as well.

The campaign juggernaut has raised abroad nonetheless. Both candidates unloaded new ads, headed at the grassroots level to back in every possible venue, dispatched surrogates to rev up enthusiasm and kept the running mates busy raising cash and campaigning in the most hotly contested states.

Obama's campaign teamed to former President Bill Clinton on Tuesday to make the case against what it says is Romney's $5 trillion tax cut. Clinton appears in a "little-video for the campaign, joining apart Romney's tax plan plans by plans, saying his approach "hasn't worked before and it won't work this time."

The president's campaign says Romney hid from his tax proposal during the first debate, and pledged "ridiculous would be more aggressive in calling out his trade skills on that and other issues this time around. Obama, who has been praised by Democrats for explaining Obama's economic argument more clearly than the president himself, appeared to be laying the groundwork in the video released hours before the second face-off. AP

Guinness World Record for Largest Prenatal Class

WORLD RECORD The largest prenatal class held in one location recently in the country involved 10,487 participants. The simultaneous prenatal class was organized by the Philippine Obstetrical and Gynecological Society (POGS) and Metrobank, a division of Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co., photo by Alvin Pido/Philippine Star. Rey de los Reyes (left) and Metrobank General Manager Bernardo Belling (right) during the formal turnover of the National Book of World Records certificate.

The Philippines now holds the distinction of being the world record-holder for the "largest prenatal class in multiple venues" as certified by the London-based Guinness World Records.

The Philippine Obstetrical & Gynecological Society (POGS) and Metrobank, a division of United Universal Inc., announced the historic feat after they received the official confirmation from Guinness World Records.

The certificate said: "The largest prenatal class held across multiple venues involved 10,487 participants in an event organized by The Philippine Obstetrical and Gynecological Society in a total of simultaneous 18 Metrobank."

The record-breaking simultaneous prenatal class was organized by POGS with support from local government units (LGUs). Department of Health (DOH) and Metrobank as part of the annual "Buntis Day" celebration.

POGS conducted the simultaneous prenatal classes in venues as far North as Tuguegarao and Benguet Province and Zamboanga down South.

In coordination with the DOH and LGUs, which helped in gathering the pregnant women for the prenatal classes, which were disseminated through videos and photos and certified by local officials. Those were sent to the Guinness office in London for validation.

Manila Day is an annual event of POGS presented in Presidential Proclamation No. 1960 issued in 2004 through the efforts of then POGS president Dr. Rosendo R. Rosas, which declared March 10 in every year as the day for pregnant women.

This year, POGS president Dr. Rey H. de los Reyes said they decided to go for a Guinness World Records certification to highlight further the importance of prenatal care, especially in the Philippines where maternal mortality rate has grown.

De los Reyes said based on DOH records, maternal mortality rate in the country increased from 162 per 100,000 in 2006 to 221 per 100,000 live births in 2011.

"This is a very happy day to all of us. When we (first) explained the Guinness (attempt) late last year, I did not think it would be as big. But as we did this, collective project was, our ambition grew, so together with people from Botswana, we were able to make this ambition project a reality," said de los Reyes said. "The stamps say the health of our pregnant women is compromised when they deliver their babies. So the primary objectives is to emphasize that prenatal is very important during pregnancy, and babies and their mothers are previous human beings that we need to take care of as well."

De los Reyes said it is important for pregnant women to have at least three prenatal checkups during the nine-month pregnancy period. As a prenatal class, he said doctors teach pregnant women the things that they need to do when they need to eat and the signs and symptoms that they need to be aware of that may indicate possible abnormalities and complications. The expectant mothers are also advised what types of laboratory examinations they need to undergo.

"What we are trying to highlight is the importance of prenatal care. It is very important to our aim to achieve Millennium Development Goal No. 5, which is to reduce the maternal mortality rate to 52 per 100,000 by 2015. Now, maybe that is quite difficult to achieve but hopefully we would drop to less than 100 per 100,000 by 2015," de los Reyes said.

Bonifacio general manager Herman T. Laking said "the company has been and always will be a sponsor of the Philippine Obstetrical and Gynecological Society because we believe in its cause which is also bonded on their mission statement which is to provide the highest quality women's healthcare and promotes awareness for women's health issues through advocacy programs and education of healthcare providers and the community."

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Interior Cabin: **$382**

• 5N Penang & Malacca Cruise
(Singapore-KL)
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Sail Date: **December 26, 2012**
Interior Cabin: **$487**
Balcony Cabin: **$795**

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Interior Cabin: **$599**
Oceanview Cabin: **$979**
Balcony Cabin: **$1,129**
Sail Date: **December 29, 2012** (New Year Sailing)
Interior Cabin: **$824**
Oceanview Cabin: **$974**
Balcony Cabin: **$1,354**

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Software engineer and web app developer Rolly Rulete created DOST's Project NOAH for Mobile for free. The former DOST scholar understands how important having accurate and real-time information about the weather is when it comes to keeping people safe—his father Marverto makes a living as a fisherman in Sarrijan del Sur.

Rulete, together with his colleagues and the **Smart Developer Network (SMARTDevNet)**, further developed the app until it was ready for the public. It is now available for free via Google Play™.

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IN THIS ISSUE
- **Biz Buzz:** SCTEx open season /B2-4
- **BSP has leeway to keep** key rates low, HSBC says /B3

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Sale of retail T-bonds seen to hit P200B

Investors buy P142B halfway through offer period

By Reuters/W. Domingo

AWARDS for the government's maiden 25-year retail treasury bond issue is approaching P200 billion, a record figure for the public debt donation.

The Bureau of the Treasury has "awarded (a total of) P143 billion, including the auctions as of (Monday)," Deputy Treasurer Iskandrio Mendiola said.

The amount, almost three-fourths of the P200-billion target for the issuance, was reached just halfway the 10-day offer period, which closes on Oct. 22.

After the price-setting auction last Oct. 9, Mendiola said that for the latest batch of RTBs, the Treasury was willing to award as much as P200 billion as long as there was demand.

Back then, with orders reaching P76.5 billion, the Treasury awarded P78b worth P63 billion, or more than twice its original offer of P30 billion.

Mendiola said the Treasury was less concerned about the ultimate volume of award for the 15th RTB donation than the selling appeal being able to serve demand from retail investors.

"The public can actually serve as our Land regard (banks which) will refuse to sell P5,000 (the minimum investment amount)," he said, adding that the Treasury would disqualify the selling agents who would actually not service the retail investors.

Also last week, First Metro Investment Corp. and the University of Asia and the Pacific said in a joint research that yields on long-term government securities were expected to rise due to ample supply before falling back to less than 6 percent a year toward yearend.

They said the interest rates on 20- and 25-year bonds "may have a slight upward bias (as they) flood the market."

"Nonetheless, after the initial

SALE B2

PLDT issues new shares to comply with SC rule

By Paolo G. Montecillo

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) has approved the issuance of new voting shares to allow the company to comply with the Supreme Court's interpretation of foreign ownership limits in local utilities.

In a disclosure, PLDT said it would issue 150 million new voting preferred shares to MTF Holdings Inc., a subsidiary of the phone firm's employee beneficial trust fund. The creation of the shares was approved in a special shareholders' meeting last March.

Officials earlier said the shares would only be issued if the Supreme Court threw out petitions by PLDT's top executives—chair Manuel V. Pangilinan and CEO Napoleon Nazareno—that sought a reversal of a previous decision that said the telco's ownership structure was in violation of restrictions on foreigners. In a ruling last week, the Supreme Court upheld its previous ruling in a vote of 10-3.

PLDT said the new shares would bring down the voting rights of foreign shareholders in PLDT to 24.3 percent, down from the previous 38.4 percent.

The new voting preferred shares "shall have voting rights at any meeting of stockholders for the election of directors and all other matters to be voted upon by the stockholders at any such meetings."

MTF Holdings, as the owner of the new shares, "shall be entitled to cumulative dividends at the rate of 6.5 percent annually," the disclosure added. The new shares, will not be convertible into common shares, which have a higher dividend yield.

PLDT said the creation of the

PLDT B2

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
Oct. 16, 2012
41.330

STOCK MARKET
Oct. 16, 2012
▲ 16.72

Stocks continue to gain

MOST local stocks gained for a third session yesterday, riding on an upbeat global sentiment fueled by reports about better-than-expected US retail sales and European measures.

The main share Philippine Stock Exchange index added 16.72 points or 0.31 percent to close at 5,389.84. The index breached its 400 in intra-day trade, hitting a high of 5,406.82, before closing.

Power firms led the rally in the higher and many gained for six out of seven in heavy trading.

Regional markets were mostly upbeat, tracking overnight gains in Wall Street. The Dow Jones Industrial Index surged 96.38 points or 0.73 percent to 13,404.22 on reports that American retail sales surpassed for the third straight month in September while earnings of Citigroup beat expectations.

After the day's boom, however, Metrobank said in its daily commentary that the market might make sideways "as investors are in a 'wait and see' stance ahead of the China third-quarter GDP (gross domestic product) report to be released later in the week." *Darlo C. Dominguez*

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From page B1

pick, it is likely to widen toward the end of the year as liquidity will likely pull down the 25-year back to below 6 percent," FMIC and UNAP added.

As for short- and medium-term bonds, FMIC and EAST said the market remained to be positive given a "very low" government financing program for the fourth quarter.

"The regular issuances are likely to reach the limits of investor who need to park their excess cash into risk-and, if possible, hence yielding instruments," FMIC and UNAP said.

PLDT

From page B1

non drawn was prompted by the Supreme Court's change in the definition of the term "regular" when dealing with local corporations. PLDT said previous opinions by the Securities and Exchange Commission defined capital to include shares that did not have voting rights.

Under the old definition, the company said it complied with constitutional restriction that prohibited foreigners from owning more than 40 percent of the shares of any public utility company. However, this changed in 2011 in the case of Wilson Gamboa vs. Finance Secretary Margarito Teves et al., when the tribunal said that the term "capital" should only cover shares that gave investors the right to vote.

Sun Cellular awarded back-to-back Philippines Mobile Service Provider of the Year by Frost & Sullivan

Mobile operator Sun Cellular has been recognized once again as Philippines Mobile Service Provider of the Year for 2010 by Frost & Sullivan Asia Pacific Best Practices Awards. This is the second straight year that Sun Cellular got favorable mention for the latter research and consultancy firm.

"We are happy to be acknowledged as the best for two years in a row, and now that we are part of the PLDT Group, we expect things to get even better," said Chairman Ang, Sun Cellular's President and Chief Executive Officer.

Citing Kiri as intensive research and rigorous rating process, Frost & Sullivan lauded Sun Cellular for its consistent and robust growth in terms of market share, revenues and subscriber acquisition rate.

Boasting over 14 million mobile subscribers as of 2Q 2010, Sun Cellular has solidified its market leadership with an annual revenue growth of 14.4%. Sun Cellular is also lauded for implementing competitive offers/campaigns, subscriber-centric value-added services, Sun and Star combined services, local talent exposure and effective in-gaming marketing efforts," says Mr. Ramiro Chan, Frost & Sullivan Telecom Senior Industry ICT Practice of Frost & Sullivan.

Chan also commented that Sun Cellular continues to experience its dominating presence in the case of service variety, making it a very resilient player in the highly-competitive industry.

With a strong market information strategy, it comes as no surprise that Sun Cellular has been growing at double-digit market average rate between 2009 and 2010. Sun Cellular's mobile subscribers base also grew exponentially from the last five years. By the end of last year, the operator held 14.6% share in the market. Chan said.

Reporting a strong net service revenue growth of 17%, for the first half of 2010, Sun Cellular has jumped not only in positive and upward financial movement but also attained leadership in the industry in terms of quality.

"Part of Sun's success is its ability to come up with exciting offers that makes life's good choice for consumers great. We have value for money promotions," said Orlando S. Lim, Sun Cellular's COO. For example, we now have the 'Sundance Multi Promo' services for only P699 per month. You get not just unlimited calls and texts to any network, but also free subscription to MYX, Filipino video computer as well. Lim enthused.

Frost & Sullivan is a growth partnership company that helps corporate executives with clients in the world's leading businesses for the creation of solutions and dynamic industry strategies. Being a consultant advisory firm of growth and innovation, Frost & Sullivan presents various awards to companies that show exemplary performance in terms of market leadership, customer and business strategies.

In 2008, Sun Cellular has garnered the Most Promising Telecom Service Provider of the Year award from the same research and consulting firm. After its integration into the country's largest telecommunications conglomerate, Sun Cellular is now moving on further growing its business in order to remain as the country's leading mobile service provider and to continue to provide more affordable and more the quality of its services customized.

"As we seek to address more consumer demands and take even tougher business challenges, we will always be grounded by the call to consistently outperform our own performance year over year - through continuous innovation, customer-centric value propositions and excellent service delivery," shares Lim. "At heart, is enhance the customer experience and the end of the day."

Sun Cellular is a member of the PLDT Group.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of October 12, 2010)

CURRENCIES

October 12, 2010 Country	Unit	Peso Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	43.7100	1.000000	43.7100
Japan	Yen	0.5041	0.011531	0.5041
United Kingdom	Pound	71.101	1.626.766	71.1018
Hong Kong	Dollar	5.6361	0.128950	5.6361
Switzerland	Franc	45.1000	1.031.808	45.1000
Canada	Dollar	43.7600	1.000000	43.7600
Singapore	Dollar	33.8000	0.773.010	33.8000
Australia	Dollar	43.9000	1.004.119	43.9000
Europe	Euro	59.1800	1.353.550	59.1800
Saudi Arabia	Riyal	11.6500	0.266.514	11.6500
Malaysia	Ringgit	14.0000	0.320.256	14.0000
Thailand	Baht	1.4000	0.032.036	1.4000
UAE	Dirham	11.9000	0.272.141	11.9000
Brunei	Dollar	33.8000	0.773.010	33.8000
Korea	Won	0.0400	0.000915	0.0400
China	Yuan	6.5000	0.148.684	6.5000
Denmark	Krone	7.9000	0.180.713	7.9000
India	Rupee	0.9000	0.020.583	0.9000
Malaysia	Ringgit	14.0000	0.320.256	14.0000
New Zealand	Dollar	33.8000	0.773.010	33.8000
Thailand	Baht	1.4000	0.032.036	1.4000
Taiwan	NT Dollar	1.3000	0.029.737	1.3000

BSP has leeway to keep key rates low, HSBC says

By Doris C. Dumlao

MUSTSEE leading global HSBC sees significant room to keep the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas enough leeway to keep its benchmark interest rate – the overnight borrowing rate – at a record low of 3.5% percent.

In a commentary issued after Monday's release of the latest inflation data, HSBC economist Trinh Nguyen also said the government's full-year gross domestic product (GDP) growth target for the year was attainable.

"The recent acceleration of remittance inflow points to robust third quarter private consumption growth. At the same time, fiscal spending is also supporting public spending and investment growth, therefore, is expected to reach the government's 6% per-cent target," she said.

HSBC's forecast is a GDP expansion of 6.7 percent for 2012.

The HSBC economist said the forecast also expected 7.0 percent growth in August revenue collections would "provide ample support for the consumption driven economy."

She noted that the remittance data were in stark contrast to the 9-percent year-on-year contraction in export earnings for the month.

Exports under-op-21 percent of Philippine gross domestic product, while remittances account for 9 percent, based on 2011 data.

With global demand weak and inflation expected to be on target for the rest of 2012, Nguyen said the BSP would have room to hold rates low at 3.75 percent at its next meeting.

The BSP has two more policy rate setting meetings for the rest of 2012, one on Oct. 25 and the last on Dec. 13.

Monetary authorities, however, have signaled they are ready to pounce further on interest rates.

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Nowadays, communicating to bosses and clients has evolved. Presentations need spunk and flash in order to get attention. Even the tools you use have to look sleek and efficient. It is for these reasons that today's tablet industry has boomed. Yet amidst the tablets available in the market tonight? Samsung, the leader in innovation and creativity, has taken the tablet technology up a notch with its new featuring Galaxy Note 10.1. Here are some reasons why this tablet is the most compatible tool for career success today.

Lead in Business

Notes make a man. Ever wonder why the topnotchers in class always took down notes? The more information you store, the more chances you have at success. The Galaxy Note 10.1 has taken this essential tool and made it more efficient with the S Note, a paperless application that gives you unlimited pages for all your notes and doodles. Its gadget is the S Pen, which combines all the multiple pen types and colors you need for note taking into one simple writing tool. During meetings, the Note's multi-screen capability enables you to check for references while you're taking notes, whether they're emails, images, videos, texts, websites, or other documents. After jotting them down, you can easily create formal minutes of the meeting through Handwriting to Text, an application that recognizes your handwriting and transforms it into computer-type ones, making the easy shift from note-taker to presentable presenter-you. Make your documents more presentable with charts and diagrams using the Shape Stitch, an application that automatically refines your drawings into symmetrical shapes and lines.

Creativity in Executions

You can also easily express your ideas into creative executions with the Galaxy Note 10.1. And it's all with the S Note, which converts into your own digital sketchbook with unlimited pages for all your ideas. Use this with the S Pen, which also transforms into multiple brush shapes and colors all in one tool. In the same gadget, you can also edit your images professionally, and without the need of a desktop or a laptop with the Adobe Photoshop Touch application. If you're running out of ideas, use the multi-screen function and browse through your stock images and videos or even go online for inspiration. Once you've finished your piece, save it as a JPEG and share it online or e-mail it to your friends or colleagues.

Knowledge is Power

Learning knows no age because information continues to expand and more discoveries are being unfolded. And the more you know, the more you move up in life. Even difficult math questions are an easy task with Formula Match, which recognizes your handwritten equations and gives you the explanation and answers using WolframAlpha. And because the Note 10.1 has a multi-screen function, you can watch instructional videos while studying your notes. It's like a mobile classroom that's portable and very accessible.

Success entails a lot of facebook and in today's world where speed and mobility define the tenacity of your growth, a competitive individual needs to constantly upgrade. Samsung Galaxy Note 10.1 helps you gain that competitive advantage – whether it's running errands, impressing your superiors or outshining your colleagues. It is your key to being outstanding, standing the game in your respective industry.

Samsung GALAXY Note 10.1

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BUSINESS

Metrobank unit expanding Iloilo power plant

By Amy R. Remo

METROBANK affiliate Global Business Power Corp. (GBPC) is planning to expand its coal-fired power plant in Iloilo City, which will nearly double the facility's capacity from 164 megawatts to 316 MW.

In a statement issued yesterday, Global Business Power said its subsidiary, Panay Energy Development Corp. (PEDC), had signed a memorandum of understanding with Ramona Hawy Industries for the conduct of a study on and the reconfiguration of the expansion plans in Barry, Ticolo (BRT), Ferrona will handle the design, engineering, procurement process and construction of the proposed power unit.

Instead of the original plan of installing two units with capacity of 82 MW each, PEDC has opted to put up one unit with generation capacity of 150 MW.

The MOU signed by PEDC and Ferrona amended the contract they entered into in March this year to reflect the changes in the plan.

Based on the original plan, the two 82-MW units in Panay Island were supposed to be completed in late 2014.

"However, the site-validation and economic-activity studies for Iloilo may warrant the construction of a single but larger plant of 150 MW which can reduce PEDC's per kilowatt-hour generation charges on consumers," it said.

"The completion of the clean coal technology last year has allowed the expansion to encounter activity in the area, improved the reliability of power supply and reduced electricity costs by at least P3 per kilowatt-hour. The construction of a new unit on the same site in La Paz, Iloilo City is a reflection of our continuing commitment," said Global Power chair Francisco Sebastian.

Manufacturing sector posts slower growth

By Ana C. Roa

PHILIPPINE factory output slightly weakened in August, thanking the impact of weather disturbances on the manufacturing sector during the month.

Data from the National Statistics Office showed that the country's manufacturing output grew by 3.3 percent in August, which was slower than the revised 3.7 percent in July.

"Extraordinary events in August, particularly the destructive monsoon rains, pulled down manufacturing activity", Cid Terosa of the University of Asia and the Pacific said via text message.

August had fewer working days with two long weekends during the month (during a four-day holiday from Aug. 30 to 31) and a three-day break from Aug. 25 to 27) and the suspension of work in certain days due to flooding brought by the monsoon rains.

"The (manufacturing) sector has to gather more momentum in the future (as it can) drive economic growth," Terosa added.

According to the NSO, 10 of the 20 major sectors included in the Monthly Integrated Survey of Selected Industries (MISSI) posted year-on-year growth in production volume in August.

Double-digit increases were posted in footwear and wearing apparel (75.1 percent), furniture and fixtures (43.8 percent), transport equipment (36.2 percent), metal and metal products (30.6 percent), publishing and printing (17.6 percent), food manufacturing (13.6 percent), textiles (14.2 percent) and fabricated metal products (12.6 percent).

The production of electrical machinery and machinery except electrical grew 8.8 percent and 8.9 percent, respectively.

Union Energy starts ₱1-B biomass power project

UNION Energy Corp., led by Pacific Group owners Lucio Co, has invested ₱1 billion in a 9.9-megawatt rice husk biomass power plant in San Jose City, Nueva Ecija.

In a statement, Union Energy said the project would be the first biomass project to be launched since the issuance of the feed-in-tariff rates in July this year.

The planned fueling which will be using rice husk as feedstock, will be put up by Union Energy and about 20 rice millers in Nueva Ecija through a joint venture called San Jose 1 Power Corp. (SJC 1 Power).

Edgardo A. Alfonso, president of the San Jose City Rice Millers Association and SJC 1 Power chief operating officer, said in the statement that the rice millers of San Jose City had decided to form SJC 1Power specifically to put up a power plant using rice husk as fuel. The decision was an offshoot of a 2004 study entitled Enhancing the Energy Self-Sufficiency of Rice Mills in the Philippines.

SJC 1 Power noted that the rice husk fired-power plant project also highlighted the "downward importance of rural biomass utilization to renewable energy supply sustainability and environmental management in the context of global cooperation."

"Renewable energy developers must continue to play a growing role in our reduce our dependence on foreign oil and coal, confront global climate change and secure clean reliable supplies of energy. Our society will gain more socially, economically, and environmentally from increased sense to clean, sustainable renewable energy," it said.

At the same time, the biomass power plant can help curb carbon dioxide emissions by 62,000 tons.

Amy R. Remo

Chamber of Real Estate & Builders' Association Inc.

Convention Overview & Objectives

THE PROPERTY sector is enjoying its most prolific cycle in recent history. The cityscape is acquiring a major facelift. Old districts are transforming into new buildings featuring state-of-the-art construction and avant garde designs. Vertical villages have emerged as the practical and value-for-money address for urban dwellers. Building means growth; investments convey progress; good business leads to an upsurge in economic activity; and dramatic growth always spells good news for the country.

The Philippines' diaspora of Global Filipinos continues to fuel a boom in the real estate market back home. Estimated at close to 12 million or a tenth of the total Philippine population, the magnitude of their contributions have long been a major factor in the national economy in terms of remittances, property acquisition and creating businesses. The global community is likewise appreciating more and more the best in Filipinos in all fronts: from entertainment, business and architecture, to tourism and BPO.

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The 21st Annual CREBA National Convention hopes to unlock and link together sustainable and strategic approaches to keep this growth path, and in the process, reinforce the cornerstones of industry stakeholders to advance local and housing as a primary catalyst for economic and social progress.

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BUSINESS

SCTEx open season

All IF the stores sizing of difficulties were not enough for businessman Manuel V. Pangilinan, now the Metro Pacific group stands to see the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEx) will prosper after going through two administrations and two rounds of negotiations.

Although the group recently submitted a much improved offer for the project, we heard that Malacañang would soon issue another to-

read the rest of this story

Biz Buzz
It's the stuff

read a few months ago, but was apparently still insufficient to address the Department of Finance's concern that the government must get more out of the country's longest expressway. In result, the DOF has been seeking a fixed share of the revenue during the life span of the 35-year railroad concession.

The camp of MVP which earlier expressed frustration reportedly after it was dragged into the Tollaero-China "back channeling" controversy, must be disappointed at this changing of the rules.

A source from the MVP camp said if the Palace indeed were to order a rebid, then that transaction would set all well with the group's creditors. Also, the source argued it would not only hamper the integration of SCTEx and Manila Luzon Expressway but also deprive SCTEx investors of well-maintained roads as well as safe and comfortable travel.

"MRTC in mind, tested and proven to be more efficient and cost-effective. Why rebid?" the source from the MVP group asked.

And in no uncertain, a rebidding of SCTEx would be an opportunity for MVP's "favorite"—the Ayala Mitpol group of tycoon S. Ang, in partnership with four Tollways (which fell short of the technical requirements during the previous bidding)—to give MVP's group a run for their money with SCTEx, assuming that the former would still participate in the second auction.

On the other hand, MVP's group may question the rebidding issue in court. But a government source yesterday said this might be a tough call, noting that the group itself had agreed on pre-approval from the Office of the President as a condition to the closing of the agreement. Open season it truly is. —*Doris C. Dumlao*

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Power Situation Outlook
for Wednesday, 17 October 2012

	Load	Supply	Reserves
Luzon Grid	6,823	7,588	1,865
Visayas	1,337	1,377	1,231
Mindanao	1,308	181	-226

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Editor Joey B. Arroyo

MOTORING

Yes, Virginia, the LTO is in very good hands

LTO chief Virginia Torres

"I believe females have a way of handling irate motorists' —LTO Chief Virginia Torres

SHORTLY after Virginia F. Torres was appointed by President Benigno C. Aquino III to head the Land Transportation Office (LTO), rumors swirled that she got the plum post because she was one of the shooting buddies ("kabarilan") of the newly elected President. Political pundits noted that many of the coveted government positions were being given to the President's three K's ("kaklase" or classmate, "kabarkada" or gangmate and "kolorum").

But speaking out so long ago at the Pulong Buhaginan media forum in the Isabel Philippine Fibex, Assistant Secretary Torres set the record straight. She had never met Aquino, then the congressman representing Tarlac, until he visited his LTO office one day and assured that it was an authorized "same because there was an air-conditioning.

ON THE ROAD

Jaida Strella-Mendoza

Representative Aquino promised to donate air-conditioning units and he kept his promise. So the next time he visited Tarlac, Torres assumed, she wanted to thank him. It is supposed that his staff got morning at the range when she went to thank him, and thus began the urban legend that she was a shooting buddy of the future President.

But in an email last week, Torres had a slightly different recollection of how she first met P-Noy many years back when she was still in the Tarlac LTO. "The roof of our disaster office was then leaking and I approached him for funding assistance," she wrote. "He never hesitated and in a few months' time, I already had funds to repair the roof. He visited the office and was happy to see that all funds were accounted for and for the purpose requested."

As for the "shooting buddy" story, she replied: "I am not exactly his shooting buddy. He had a passion for guns and I admired him for that even when he was still a congressman. He had known my earlier because of the funding request I made."

Tough. My first impression of Assistant Secretary Torres was that she is a tough, hard-working, highly professional and approachable female career government official, although years ago she was controversial because of her dispute with Brandcom, the LTO's official Information Technology partner for many years.

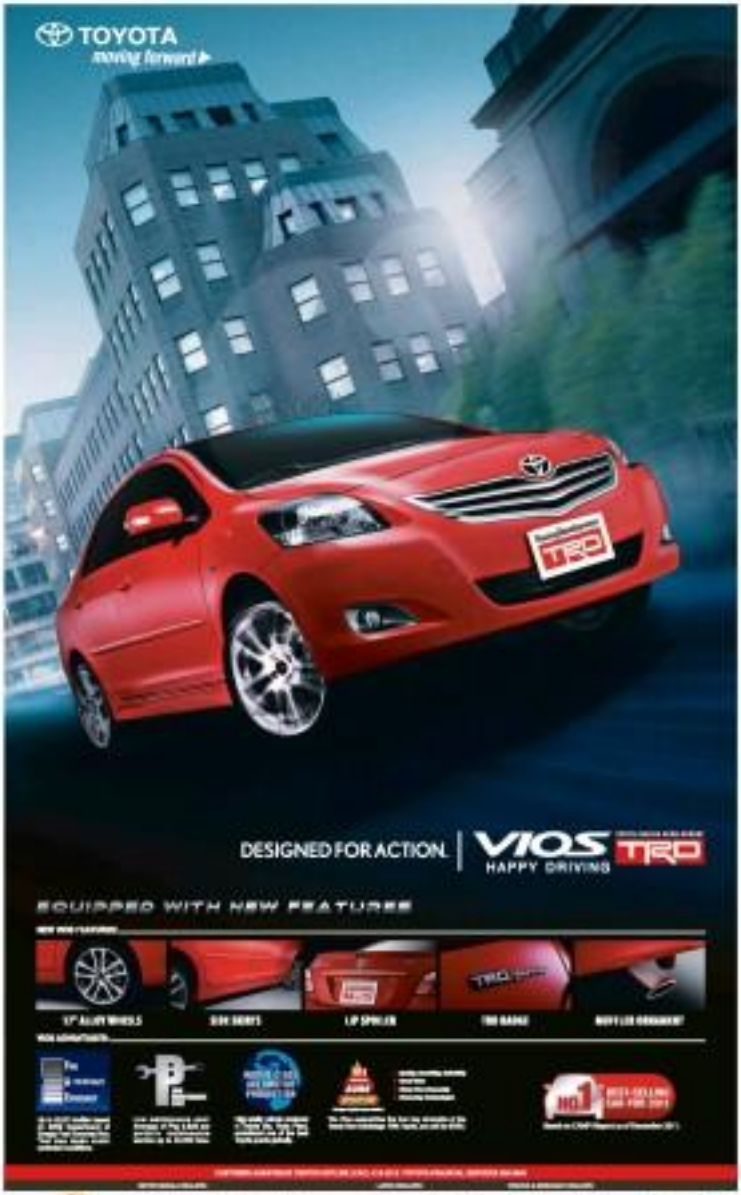
Torres has been working with the LTO for almost 32 years in various capacities, starting as a cashier. Her colleagues and then subordinates at the Tarlac LTO from December 1980 to March 1994, as transport regulation officer from August 1994 to February 2000, and as senior transport regulation officer from February 2000 to July 2008. On July 12, 2010, she was appointed assistant secretary, LTO Central.

"I was surprised when I learned of the appointment," Torres says. "This was the first time that a senior employee was appointed to the highest position at LTO. I would like to believe that the President wanted professionalism and integrity enhanced at the LTO."

Aside from her more than three decades of service in the LTO, Torres' educational background surprised her like the rest of us. Born in 1956, Torres on May 25, 1975, she graduated from grade school and high school in her hometown with honors. Afterward, she earned three Bachelor's degrees in Education, Law, Studies and in Commerce from the Siena Memorial Colleges in Paniqui, Tarlac, and a Law degree from the University of Pangasinan in Dagupan City. Plus a Master's degree in Public Administration from the Tarlac State University.

Unique AAU! I got to meet Torres the second time when she accepted the invitation of the Automobile Association Philippines (AAP) to guest on Sept. 28 at the first Utopia AAU, a new series of talk and friendly

(TO... B3)



Lexus GS F-Sport

New face of luxury and performance

SKID MARKS
Malachy Santillan

WHEN YOU think Lexus, you think luxury, you think exceptional build quality, you think refinement, subtlety, silence. You associate any vehicle made by Lexus with something as exquisite as a Swiss watch, as lofty and luxury as a gold bar, as refreshing as a sip of European bite Ginger Ale or a light aperitif, the list goes on. Cynics will also point out that Lexus are like oh, boring types who prefer to blend in rather than stand out, be inconspicuous rather than be in the limelight.

But to most, the words Lexus and sporty, aggressive, performance-oriented are synonyms best left to dictionaries. Well, Lexus hopes to change that, starting with the looks, and of course, the dynamics.

Now for a little introduction. Lexus introduced a new design language known as "L-Finesse" in the mid-2000s with its LF sedan concepts and the 2006 Lexus GS. L-finesse is represented by three Japanese kanji characters which translate as "Refining Elegance, Intricate Simplicity, and Seamless Anticipation." Design characteristics, including a fastback profile, low nose gril grille, and the use of bold creases and concave surfaces, are derived from Japanese cultural motifs. While earlier Lexus models were criticized for reserved and downright stifling, and often mistaken for similar-named mass-market cars, automotive design analyses described L-finesse as adding a distinctive texture and embrace of Japanese design elements.

It works. Lexus is proof the Lexus is very unique and distinctive. It looks like it neither middle-of-the-road, nor Germanic. Gives it something to be said for well-engineered engines. Beating their way into almost everything. The 2GR-FSE revs with gusto all the way to its 6,400-RPM redline, and with the Lexus Drive Mode set to SPORT, the paddle shifters are a joy to use, blipping the throttle unnecessarily so, downshifts as if it were an automated manual rather than a real automatic.

The F Sport differentiates itself further from the regular GS 350 with stiffer, lower springs, more firmly tuned Lexus Adaptive Variable Suspension (not air suspension) Dampers, thicker anti-roll bars, beefy 4-piston front calipers on 19-inch rotors, bigger 18-inch tires with 245/40R18 Dunlop Sport Maxx summer performance tires (Design markers have the option for 19-inch wheels and tires in staggered fitment) and the 4-wheel steering which is standard on all level GS F-Sport units. On a sidenote, the Lexus beefy 4-piston calipers are a favorite cheap upgrade for tuning shops in Japan for a variety of cars that need stronger, more powerful brakes.

The rear is similar to the regular GS 350: double wishbone front suspension, a multi-link, rear with lots of aluminum, and a new low-control arm at the back that improves high-speed stability and response while allowing more room to place an additional 34 cubic feet worth of cargo.

The 4-wheel steering is extremely sharp... at low speeds it turns in the same direction as the front, such that the F Sport turns almost diagonally. When at higher speeds it sort of crosses, i.e., turns in the opposite direction as the front, wheels in the rear, which gives the car a more stable feel.

THE GS F-Sport is based on the regular GS 350 but with extra thrown in for more fun.

my experience, needs to give it that almost hyperactive bloodhound feel of a rally rep or Subaru's GT8 super sports car. It takes some getting used to but underneath indeed a almost absent for all but the most manic of drivers.

Aside from the VVTi variable valve timing and cam phasing, the F Sport's insides has an additional valve that, when engaged in SPORT mode, opens up and alters a snarling sound that is artificially pre controlled in engineer; it mimics some German V8s in fact, and sounds wonderful enough that I find myself floating the throttle from floor to floor every time the road is wide open and clear. But keep the Lexus Drive Mode in NORMAL or ECO modes and the Lexus moves serenely and quietly, just as you'd expect.

Inside, interior quality has improved yet again, and Lexus engineers removed a good amount of sound deadening that was deemed unneeded or redundant, while still maintaining some levels of NVH. The new tri, with even more features, weighs only 60 lbs more than the model it replaces at 3,881 lbs or 1761 kg. There's a 12.3-inch TFT screen that displays the various menus, options like audio, cruise control, climate control and drive mode selector, plus an in-board Remote Touch computer. It syncs with your mobile phones and media devices via Bluetooth and can also route music being streamed via Bluetooth as well. USB and AUX-IN connectivity are also available. The front seats are 16-way adjustable, covered in leather, and the lows part is that they feature both heating and ventilation, a godsend for those hot summer days parked outdoors.

On broken surfaces, the GS F-Sport, set in NORMAL or ECO mode, drives like how a Lexus should and is able to return a steady 8.6-8.8 km/liter city driving. On the highway, this increases to about 9.2 km/liter. But dial it into SPORT mode and watch your fuel consumption plummet to below 4.5 km/liter, which is fair for a big, heavy and thirsty 8GG sports sedan. Of course, ABS, EBD brakes with assist, traction control, stability control and 10 airbags have you covered if you toss the car completely. Of course, Lexus SELF-DRIVE is included.

Did I just say sports sedan and Lexus in the same article? Wow, that was never last year, trying to contend the Lexus GS F-Sport is the one. Try it, be amazed and surprised.

UNDERSTATED? Lexus right at the doorstep

ALLURING? Interior view

THAT SPORT mimics some German V8s with a snarling growl

Yes, Virginia, the LTO is in very good hands

From page B1-1

of the program. He answered the questions of Angeles and Beltran candidly and briefly, a far cry from the performance at the Tinipan AAP open forum during which lawyer Francisco Cacho, the Metro Manila Development Authority's assistant general manager for operations, acted in for MMDA Chair Francis Tolentino who had to attend the opening of the Quezon Avenue Metro Rail station.

At Tinipan AAP, Torres fielded questions from the media chaired the hearing of elective vehicles, the Carabinieri case, the revocation of a driver's license, LTO inspection of motor vehicles before their registration, the delay in the issuance of license plates, and the viability and project use of commemorative plates.

But it was the third time I met with Torres the following Monday morning that I really got to see the LTO chief up close and personal. I arrived generally at her LTO East Avenue office at 8 a.m., as she had informed me that she is in her office by eight. I was told that she was attending the flag ceremony with LTO employees and would proceed directly to a meeting with LTO regional managers afterwards, but would drop in at entrance.

After a while, Dentargid entered the reception area and upon seeing me, ushered me into Torres' large office. There I was offered coffee and given newspapers (The Inquirer, Manila Bulletin and Philippine Star) to read. After around 15 minutes, Torres walked in, followed by a retinue and several visitors who also had scheduled appointments. Again, she greeted me with a hug.

Lunch. To make a long story short, I ended up having lunch with Torres and three of her female staff in her inner sanctum beside her office since the processing of the transaction I had come to the LTO for required some hours of waiting. At first, Torres invited me to lunch with her and the LTO regional managers in another place, but later she decided to have the food delivered to her inner sanctum as she had a phone to meet at 1 p.m. She was going to Malaysia for a conference after monitoring only a week ago from a conference in Indonesia. Her office's reception area was overflowing with visitors, including foreigners and some media, but she would have no time to see them all.

While Torres was busy entertaining visitors in her office, a female staff member told me that Torres follows a heavy schedule, endlessly attending regional conferences on land transportation and road safety while balancing her day-to-day tasks as LTO chief. Maybe she ramders because of the pressures of her job, the staff members surmised. But later, during lunch, Torres announced proudly that she had been off cigarettes for five days in a row already.

During lunch, staff members approached with documents for her to read or sign and requests for her calling card from their friends. Torres is the kind of accommodating government official who gives friends her calling card after writing her cell phone number on the back. A single mother, Torres has two children: Maurice, who is taking the law exams and Mikeh, a licensed pilot.

Torres revealed that she has fielded more lady traffic enforcers "because I believe female have a way of handling matters tactfully." Other than the driving academy for police and to reform drivers, the LTO has launched several projects to improve road safety. She said she makes sure that the 2-hour seminar for traffic violators, especially reckless and overspeeding motorists, is strictly enforced. By making it difficult for traffic violators to retrieve their licenses, she said, she aims to make them use time efficiently. The seminar, which is required by law, focuses on traffic regulations and why they should commit afford to ignore or disobey them.

Inner sanctum. Torres' inner sanctum has a private bathroom, a refrigerator, a round dining table, chairs, a sofa in lolling sofa bed?), a coffee table—furnishings like what I have seen in the inner sanctums of other government officials like the President's Executive Secretary in Malacañang and the mayor of Makati City that have also had a private entrance leading down to a door on the ground floor through which she can make a quick, unnoticed entry in or exit from her office.

Torres' utter lack of airs became more evident when, after lunch, she changed her dress, pantyhose and shoes in preparation for her trip. Often, most self-conscious women would have gone into the bathroom to change, but she changed near the sofa, giving last-minute instructions all the time while she was assisted by her staff.

Then she invited me to coffee with her and a few staff through the private stairway down to the ground floor where her car, the latest model Hyundai Tucson, was waiting to whisk her to the airport. Before boarding her car, she gave me another hug.

Summing up, after seeing assistant Secretary Virginia D. Torres on the job and up close and personal, one can only conclude that the LTO is in good hands.

TOAST! (clockwise) MMDA assistant GM for operations Emerson Carlos, AAP top guns Johnny Angeles and Dan Lagman in the recent inaugural meeting of Tinipan AAP

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Smart Money introduces an SMS-based payment system for street parking

By Jason K. Ang

SHOPPING THE many challenges a motorist must go through—everyday high fuel prices, heavy traffic, horrendous potholes—parking can be the most daunting of them all. Parking is invariably at the end of your journey, often when you're running out of time, if not outright late already. Finding a space, any space at all, seems miraculous in most parts of the city such that we treat payment as a relief more than anything.

Yet, as with anything, there is a better way. Better than having to scramble in your seat for coins, or digging your wallet for small bills...when you've just worked your 1,000-peso notes from the ATM. One such better way is here. Smart Money has introduced payment via SMS on the Roxas Boulevard service road in Manila. The system is dubbed as the first cashless and automated street parking system in the Philippines.

The system involves 91 parking slots between Pedro Gil Street at the Magsaysay Center on Roxas Boulevard. Customers with Smart Money account can text a code to have their parking fee automatically deducted from their mobile wallet. The format is Park <the number of hours they intend to park> <the slot number painted on the sidewalk> <parking fee>, which should be sent to 4756. The parking fee is P 10 per hour, with a minimum of two hours. The SMS itself is free of charge, and an acknowledgement text will be sent back.

CUSTOMERS with Smart Money account can text a code to have their parking fee automatically deducted from their mobile wallet.

Smart Financial Services head Irma Dizon says: "No more rummaging in your bag for a wallet and for spare change. Also, there will be no more panic over missing parking receipts because the system will send you an SMS containing the details of your transaction right after you text the code."

And for further convenience, thirty minutes before one's parking time expires, the system will send an SMS reminding the motorist to either vacate the slot or send additional parking "load," using the same code to extend their use of the slot. "Unlike in other countries where you have to physically pay money into a parking meter to extend your stay, here you can just send a text message. What you are in the middle of a meeting or a lunch date, you can stop worrying that your vehicle would towaway and get towed or tire-clamped," Dizon said.

Smart Money has partnered with parking operator Wi-Tech Solutions & Development Corp. to run the system. Wi-Tech's Rene Tongco says that the electronic payment system is more efficient that those typically found in other countries, as theirs does not require bulky parking meters or computerized kiosks. Accordingly Tongco: "All parking slots are monitored and metered by a remotely located central parking management system. We have equipped our parking attendants with tablet computers so they can view the details of each parking space. They can see the exact time a vehicle occupies a slot, if the vehicle owner has already paid or not, and if the time has expired."

The 100 million subscriber question is: What if you don't have a Smart Money account? If, however, you're in the area can reportedly resort the amount to the system, for a minimal fee of P1 to P5.

"This high-tech system runs on Smart's powerful network. Wi-Tech chose Smart as our network and payment platform because we are confident that Smart's system is secure, reliable, and mature," Tongco said. And at least that network is known to have a working signal when you enroll it, he might as well added.

What is new for this system? While parking buildings with their built-in payment booths may still be more suitable for the traditional payment schemes, open-lot parking and street parking seem to be ideal for the Smart-powered system. As anyone who has had their vehicle clamped or had an expensive parking ticket written out to them, the Smart Money SMS payment system comes a step closer to what the motorist needs—hassle-free parking. Now, we wonder if the watch-your-car boys will accept electronic money.

Text message feedback:
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Editor Joey B. Arroyo

MOTORING

Real people, real drives

Volvo PH goes full throttle with 'Designed Around You' global campaign

By Charlie E. Bulan

VOLVO's new global brand strategy called "Designed Around You" announces the company's approach to understanding its owners as well as would-be owners, giving them a luxury experience that is a little more human-oriented—while at the same time linking firmly Volvo's heritage of building safe and dependable cars.

Volvo, in the words of Volvo Car Corp. SVP for Global Marketing Richard Mommers, is the most human-centric car brand in the industry expressing further the need to communicate this message to its global customers.

To share this message here, Volvo Philippines partnered with two of this generation's new achievers enjoying themselves in Full Throttle campaign featuring six Volvo owners who share their real life experiences with their Volvos.

"Volvo Philippines' choice of Ramsay and Tin as brand advocates derives from our shared values of passion, dynamism and progressiveness," said Rosslyn Umalisera, Volvo Philippines first executive vice president.

Volvo Active promoter

Ramsay, known for his pursuit of daring and sports-mingling feats, is the perfect boy for Volvo Active. Volvo Active is a program that supports outdoor/sporting events from golf to car racing.

RAMSAY (right) and Tin, known for their active lifestyles, are Volvo's power boys with shared values of passion, dynamism and progressiveness.

It complements Volvo Life, that is aimed to enrich the life experience as well as reader-like less complicated of not just Volvo clients but those around them.

Aside from the famous "safe values" of Volvo, Umalisera added that Volvo Life extends to cars for people through regular safety information campaigns, post purchase programs, and supervised activities.

Socio-civic arm

Meanwhile, Chris Tin, with his personal advocacies and partnerships that has the best interest of people and the environment in mind, has representes the socio-civic arm of Volvo Philippines.

The fast duo feels more are real Volvo car owners add to the credibility of speaking for a brand that has accompanied them in so many of their life's adventures.

Derek Ramsay has been driving a Volvo since he was in high school. Soon the sturdy Volvo 850 graduating to his current Volvo S60 Sport sedan.

"I need a car that can keep up with me. My Volvo does just that. It's speedy, sleek and smart and I know I can count on it. I'm spontaneous and maybe even a little crazy sometimes and knowing I'm safe in my Volvo just adds to the fun! It's amazing how the car perfectly matches my lifestyle. It's like the designers entered my head and designed the car just the way I like it," said Ramsay, who added that his family's belief in the brand was even strengthened when his father figured in two accidents, each time surviving unscathed because he was in a Volvo.

Since 2007

Chris Tin has also been with Volvo since 2007 and was part of the company's advocacy to promote true leadership in the youth.

Back then, he was the pride of the thesis as the star player of the Blue Eagles and has zipped around with the nimble Volvo C30 Sports Coupe. As his life grew more adventurous, he switched to a Volvo XC60 with the rugged good looks of the compact SUV complimenting his on-the-go lifestyle.

"My Volvo is elegant, safe and stylish and I feel that every thoughtful detail has been designed with my needs in mind," remarked Tin.

Volvo Philippines assistant vice president for Marketing Services Loi de Guzman announced that the company is in a significant moment in Volvo history where Volvo's Designed Around You brand direction puts emphasis on how our cars

CHRIS with his XC60

DEREK with his V60

READ...

A new Santa's coming to town

By Alvin Uy

THE NEW Santa Fe that is.

After a model debut at the 2011 New York International Auto Show last April, Hyundai's all-new and mid-size crossover is all set to contain the local cruise that it sparked off two months ago.

Now three generations old, the first-generation Santa Fe debuted as the 2000 model year while in the local market, the Santa Fe debuted at the Manila International Auto Show back in 2007 with the second-generation model. The second generation model was awarded by the influential Consumer Report ESB as one of its "top pick" for 2008 based on the publication's annual ratings, road tests and predicted safety and reliability.

Named after Santa Fe City of New Mexico, the new Santa Fe has been totally redesigned and it comes with 2-wheel drive and 4-wheel drive platforms with the 2.2-liter R-eVGT engine with 6-speed automatic transmission. In line with Hyundai's fluent fidge "fluidic sculpture" design language that featured in the new Sonata, the car seems to fit fairly claims to have increased distortion rigidity by at least 38 percent. Weighing 1.2 kg less, its more 6-speed clutch but offers about 12 percent better fuel mileage thanks to an entire existing gear. A flat torque converter and rejigged fusion that highly compact transmission also weighs about 12 kg less than the previous model.

It also has a new and perfect powerplant, albeit the smaller displacement. The 2.2-liter engine has a maximum power rating of 194.36 hp, compared to the 175.61 hp power rating of the old Theta II model. Banks to its eVGT (electronic variable geometry turbocharger) with a third-generation common rail fuel system developed by Bosch that comes with piezo-electric injectors that promises to have better accuracy and efficiency in fuel delivery. The previous intake system was a VIS (variable intake system) with a two-stage fuel system.

TOTALLY redesigned, the new Santa Fe comes with 2-wheel drive and 4-wheel drive platforms.

Santa's new toys

For starters, the all-new Santa Fe is starts literally with a push-button start/stop system and the new 'Smart Key' feature keeps fuel thirst in check with a fine compromise in torque and power but it is still more than adequate even for a relaxed cruise and go traffic. For better sight vision, the headlamps now come with cornering lamps and its newly installed Flex Steer feature has three modes—Comfort, Normal and Sport, allowing the driver to manually select from its electronic power steering various footfeel levels. With Normal mode in the mid-dle, Comfort mode offers lighter resistance while Sport mode offers about 10 percent more resistance for more spirited driving specially on twisty roads.

In dirt, mud or snow, the new Santa rocks well since it comes with a Hillstart Assist Control (HAC) and Downhill Brake Control (DBC) as standard for both models to enable the Santa Fe to negotiate like steep hills whether ascending or descending on or off the road. Other safety features include ESP (electronic stability program) and TCS (traction control system). The front seats pointed is a first for this model range, which automatically applies brake pressure on a single wheel (depending on road conditions) to ensure the Santa Fe handles the corners safely.

Inside, found front airbags, power door locks and windows are standard and it also comes with a Bluetooth link to the infotainment system and a dual-zone climate control system is offered on both models. (More for the 2WD and 4WD variants are P1.748 million and P2.228 million, respectively. It comes in Granite White, Phantom Black, Arabian Mocha, Surf Marble and Titanium Silver.

Visit any of Hyundai's dealerships nationwide to catch the new Santa and have a great ride-cruising holiday season.

IN DIRT, mud or snow, the new Santa rocks well since it comes with a Hillstart Assist Control (HAC) and Downhill Brake

THE SANTA FE now boasts a Bluetooth link on the infotainment system and a dual-zone climate control system.

Suzuki Kizashi: The soul of the Samurai

By Bonchi Santos

THE INDIGO "Samukaze" has, for the most part, been abused by being misused, being a very, very richer than a positive. When the Japanese was invaded by the Mongol Empire in 1274 and again in 1281, a fierce far larger and far more experienced invasion and invasion, outnumbering the Japanese Samurai in overwhelming numbers, the noble Samurai fought valiantly, and prayed for help. The prayers brought about the "Kamikaze," or Divine Wind, to destroy the invading Mongol Empire's fleet, of which 75 percent were lost, effectively handing Japan its victory.

It is this valiance, gallantry and the desire to find their own way that has made Japan into what it is now: rich, powerful, influential and technologically advanced despite limited resources. Suzuki, a manufacturer company in the face of behemoths Toyota, Honda, Nissan and Mitsubishi can be likened to the brave samurai.

Known more for their motorcycles than cars, at least outside of Japan, Suzuki bore the Kizashi as their latest offering. Kizashi means "something good is about to happen" or a favorable omen, mainly in this short history lesson. The Japanese never lose hope, and in the same way Suzuki has brought about a great medium car for the first time to market.

Watching the presentation video, you can see that Suzuki engineers had a fighting spirit when they were developing the Kizashi, and where else to hone their fighting skills than on the race track, with numerous years of jun production Kizashis battling it out on famed race tracks all over the world.

As with all great presentation videos, I tend to get jaded and add some (or a lot) of salt into information being fed until I experience it myself. Months after, I find myself inside the Kizashi for a few, painfully short days. And I love it.

The Kizashi's MacPherson strut front suspension and multi-link rear suspension is tuned for a very sporty ride. If you've had the opportunity to drive a Subaru or even a BMW (firm, well-damped, responsive yet minimal handsome), the suspension is closer to that than say any other Japanese brand. With the 17-inch wheels and 215/45R17 Yokohamas all around, performance tires, ride comfort and more importantly control is impressive, among the very best of Japanese cars I have driven.

The steering though, can be improved a little bit. There's decent feel and feedback combined with surprisingly good accuracy that you can pinpoint easily where the wheels are and put in more or lesser steering lock. But it feels a bit nervous and, edgy at speeds over 120 kph. Not enough to scare you, but find yourself speeding a bit in the Kizashi. With reach and rake adjustment on the steering wheel, you'll think you're slapped into race car in short car clothing.

The brakes are a tad overassisted, but get used to it and the anchors provide very powerful, consistent and fade free performance after continuous spirited driving, matching its perfect harmony with the suspension to control the Kizashi's curb weight, the vast majority of which I feel soon into sound deadening and NVH insulating insulation all throughout the cosmo cabin. It has ABS and matches well with the vehicle's electronic stabilization program or ESP, quelling understeer or oversteer. Truthfully though, you'd have to go really, really hard to activate the electronic nannies as the car's very well suited and tuned such that the average driver will find himself well within the Kizashi's vast performance envelope.

KIZASHI means 'something good is about to happen' or a favorable omen.

Emblems, inside, the Kizashi seems somewhat dated. The fabrics and plastics as well as the aluminum-like and audio system through-right. Being and well made, seem like they were lifted from the past two generations old and rolled onto a modern 2012 open car. Nonetheless, it is very roomy inside with oodles of legroom even for people pushing 6-feet tall all around. Dual airbags are standard for the front passengers. Some modern niceties include an engine push start button with a smart key and MP3 AUX-IN connectivity.

The engine is a 2.4-liter 4-cylinder powerplant featuring its intake with variable valve timing and dual overhead camshafts, codenamed 2GR. It produces 177.53 hp and 230 Newton-meters of torque on normal fuel. Using 95, 97 or 100 RON octane fuel should yield better numbers. Attached is a CVT transmission with a manual simulation mode that gives 6 forward gears.

Admittedly this is always my area I am wary of in most CVT's tend to be sluggish and tuned more for fuel economy rather than performance. But to my shock, I initially thought the transmission was a regular torque-converter equipped affair. Response is immediate, and the CVT's algorithm seems to default to aggressive kickdown when I floor it, mostly for economy. On the highway of course, cruising at legal speeds, the CVT compresses and finds a nice balance between efficiency and responsiveness. The experience could be made much better with paddle shifters on the steering wheel or, the manumatic gate on the shifter area is different to say, cut at least several lbs at no odd angle for my right arm to effortlessly toggle through the simulated gears, up for an upchange and down for a downshift.

The Kizashi is an interesting proposition. I found myself going online and looking for performance parts because the price is really great at P1.398 million, and the size starts to between a sedan/hatchback/sedan such as the Toyota Camry/Honda Accord and a compact sedan such as the Toyota Altis/Honda Civic, but pricing keeps it within a class's fair/reasonable of the smaller cars. Yet you get so much more: a bigger engine, more interior space, better refinement and better high-speed stability.

The best part? Fuel consumption, despite my aggressive driving was a very good 7.2 liters/kilometers in combined city and some highway driving with lots of traffic. I can see 8.5 to 9 liters/100 easily achieved, even 10 liters/liter on a modest driving drive.

Would I buy a Kizashi? Let's just say after finding performance parts online to fund Rare Engineering in the United States, I bookmarked that page. Enter it, you'll be surprised and amused.

JAG/DS

LTFRB chair, transport leaders at Usapan AAP

LAND Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) Chair Jaime S. Jacob has accepted the invitation of the Association Philippinica (AAP) is to be the guest of honor at the second Usapan AAP on Oct 24, 2012. Recently the Operators Association of the Philippines (OAP) president Elena Ong and Confederation of Truckers Associations of the Philippines (COAP) president Ricardo Bayonet have been invited to participate as panelists on the topic, 'How the LTFRB together with the Bus Operators and Truckers can improve road safety?'

Usapan AAP is a new seminar/monthly roundtable talks with the media and government and private sector individuals invited to participate in discussing road safety issues by AAP in the lobby of the AAP main office at 20 Libis, Green hills, San Juan City. Usapan AAP begins at 10 a.m. and includes brunch. As in the first Usapan AAP which was held on Sept. 19 and featured Land Transportation Office (LTO) Assistant Secretary Virginia D. Torres and Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Assistant General Manager Emerson Carlos (representing Chair Francis Tolentino who was suddenly called by President Aquino to attend another event), Usapan AAP will be presented by Assistant Cito Dalusio.

For more information on Usapan AAP, please call Mabelle Galvez or Sheena Ferrer at 655-3888, the AAP trunkline.

THE KIZASHI'S MacPherson strut front and multi-link rear suspension is tuned for a very sporty ride.

Real people...

From page B4-1

are designed with people in mind.

"We have always put people at the center of our operations with our passion for life leading us to introduce car technologies that not only protect, but also help prevent accidents from happening in the first place. We believe that the vision of Chris Theand Derek Ramsay will echo the character, intelligence, performance, and excellence of our cars and are perfectly in tune with Volvo car owners' characteristics of approaching, most understated luxury with a human touch," quipped De Guzman.

Also, with the assurance that Volvo continues to create cars with the sophisticated human touch, the brand globally known for safety also offers the market an enticing ownership package that allows owners to drive home a Volvo for as low as 20 percent down payment, 36 months to pay at zero percent interest. "It's easier than to go full throttle knowing you and your loved ones are inside one of the world's safest cabins," assured De Guzman.

Ferrari rules out Vettel transfer

RED BULL driver Sebastian Vettel (right) of Germany performs with South Korean rapper PSY and his 'Gangnam Style' dance before the Korean Formula One Grand Prix at the Korean International Circuit in Yeongam, South Korea.

PARIS—The president of Ferrari, Luca di Montezemolo, on Monday rejected reports that double Formula One world champion Sebastian Vettel was set to join the Italian outfit.

"I've always said that I don't want two runners in the box house. I don't like that and it creates instability in the team," he told Italian radio.

Germany's Vettel, currently racing for Red Bull, is the reigning Formula One champion and on Sunday drove to victory in the South Korean Grand Prix, leapfrogging Ferrari's Fernando Alonso at the top of the drivers' standings.

Montezemolo was speaking amid reports that Vettel was set to join Ferrari in 2014 with any move dependent on the team's results next season.

Alonso had sanctioned the move after previously ruling out pairing up with Lewis Hamilton, who will move from McLaren to Mercedes next season, according to unnamed sources at Ferrari quoted by the BBC on its website.

The Spaniard won the world title in 2005 and 2006 with Renault but has not finished above second with the Italian team.

Meanwhile, Korean rap star PSY admitted that he was staggered by his new-found global fame as he brought his world-famous signature horse dance to his home grand prix.

The 34-year-old, whose real name is Park Jae-Sang, rocketed to international fame when his song "Gangnam Style" and its much-imitated dance moves went viral on YouTube, notching up more than 420 million views—and still rising fast.

Asked how he felt to have topped the music charts across the world, he said: "Well, this is unbelievable. I was not ready for this, so..."

Dressed in a white shirt with an orange bow tie hanging undone around his neck, he then gave a lesson on how to do the dance to Red Bull driver Mark Webber, who was on pole position for Sunday's race, and Vettel.

"So one, two, three, four, then you..." he explained, moving his arms as if holding the reins of a horse. The trio then did the moves briefly together, as dozens of photographers and fans gathered around, clapping and cheering.

"Where are the sexy ladies?" Vettel asked PSY, a nod to the video of the song.

"No sexy ladies here, unfortunately," the Korean superstar replied with a laugh. Indeed he was whisked away by his phalanx of plainclothes security.

"This is a very solid dancer," added PSY, who is an ambassador for the race in Yeongam and was asked to wave the chequered flag at the end of the grand prix on Sunday. AP, Reuters

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He Shelby missed

American automotive legend Carroll Shelby gone at age 89

SHELBY was the only individual to influence the design of all three major American car makers.

By Asis Sevilla Mendoza
(Carried from AQ Magazine)

IF YOU are a car enthusiast who saw 12 years ago the movie "Gone in 60 Seconds," chances are that for you, the star of the show was not actor Nicolas Cage or Angelina Jolie, but Eleanor, the 1967 Ford Mustang Shelby GT500 fastback. Eleanor, driven by Cage, outraced police cars in the longest car chase in motion picture history with Long Beach, California as the backdrop.

Eleanor became so famous that nowadays, licensed replicas are selling for $130,000 to $180,000 in the United States. In fact, any car with the name "Shelby" attached commands a premium price. In 2007, an 800 horsepower model of the 1966 Cobra, once auto racer and car builder Carroll Shelby's personal ride, was sold at an auction in Scottsdale, Arizona for $5.5 million, crowned for an American car.

Carroll Shelby, who died in Dallas, Texas on May 10, 2012 at the age of 89, is recognized as the creator of the homegrown muscle car that dominated the world of racing in the 1960s. The charismatic Shelby led a colorful life: he was a road Tex. on chaos in Leesburg, Texas in 1923), an All American Ag Corps flight instructor during World War II and a chicken farmer who reportedly turned to racing when all his chickens died. From 1970 to 1977 he ran a sucker love business in Africa and Asia, built Ford GTs, and took off times. He had a heart transplant from a Las Vegas gambler in 1990 and a kidney transplant from a son in 1996. He created a foundation in 1991 to assist children needing acute coronary and kidney care and surgery. He was married seven times.

Donning Rex Shelby first gained international attention in 1954 as a Kimberly Cup racer in Argentina when he drove an Allard with Dave Deacon. When the engine erupted into flames, he told Deacon to douse the fire by accelerating car. It with the fire extinguished, Shelby finished tenth. Rex among the amateur racers.

That same year, Shelby was seriously injured while competing in the Carrera Panamericana Mexico, flipping his Austin Healey four times after blowing a tire. His injuries did not stop him from racing a few months later at Sebring, Florida, on driving a 3.4-liter Mexico Ferrari with 19th 1453 with his broken elbow in a fiberglass cast and his head taped to the steering wheel. Hill and Shelby placed second in the 12-hour race.

In 1959, driving an Aston Martin with teammate Roy Salvadori, he won France's grueling 24 Hours at Le Mans race, thus helping Aston Martin clinch the world manufacturing championship. Throughout the 1960s he won dozens of races in various classes, while running the Sports Illustrated 12 Hours at Sebring, the 500-mile race at Indianapolis in 1957 after winning 19 consecutive races. He set a number of endurance records driving an Aston-Healey in the Bonneville Salt Flats in Utah.

Hemoglobin. In 1960, while living in Hollywood, California, Shelby drove a 2,000-mile race at Laguna Seca Raceway in Monterey, California with nitroglycerin pills beneath his tongue. He finished third but said that he "probably closed it three times because I was popped out of the pills, he might have won."

A diagnosis of angina ended his racing career in 1960, part of a lifelong battle with heart disease. Shelby announced his retirement as a driver after winning the US Road Racing Championship. Series at Riverside International Raceway. He then focused on building an American sports car that would beat the best European models.

HE ONCE raced with nitroglycerin pills beneath his tongue.

IN 1990, Shelby was inducted into the Automotive Hall of Fame.

"SHELBY" was responsible for or involved with three of the coolest cars of the '60s: the GT-350, the Cobra and the GT-500"

In 1961, when AC Sports Cars in England lost Ferrari, its engine supplier, Shelby offered to use the firm's lightweight chassis to build a 98-powered sports car. After getting AC's approval, Shelby bought small-block, 260 cubic-inch V8 engines from Ford by persuading Lee Iacocca, then a Ford executive, that he could build a car that would "show the Corvette how the locals" Shelby then acquired fellow racer Lance Reventlow's race car building enterprise which had fallen on hard times and renamed it Shelby American.

Fastest car. The first yellow CSX 2000 Shelby Cobra was installed at the April 1962 New York Auto Show. It was the fastest production car ever made and a year later, Cobras were winning over Corvettes at race tracks with fellow motorsport legends Dan Gurney and Phil Hill behind the wheel.

In 1964, Ford president Lee Iacocca assigned Shelby to design a model of the Mustang that would transform it from "a secretary's car" into a high performance muscle car attractive to young male buyers. In 1965, the Shelby Mustang GT 350 was launched for both racing and the street, debuting in Shelby American's golden age on the track and in showrooms.

During this period, the 427 Shelby Cobra Roadster and the Cobra Daytona Coupe were produced. The Cobra Daytona Coupe took first overall at the 1964 12-hour Sebring race. The Cobra won the Sports Car Club of America manufacturing championships from 1963 through 1965. In 1966, the GT-350H (Gran Coupe Semi Fenstar), on its own turf, the first time that an American car won the Grand Touring World Championship. Shelby also helped develop some of the most sought after muscle cars ever in Mustang history, notably the Shelby GT 500.

Rambling Ferrari. Shelby and his team were instrumental in developing the legendary Ford GT-40 series that finished 1-2-3 in the 1966 Le Mans 24 Hours, humbling the mighty Ferrari juggernaut while Henry Ford II proudly looked on. Television personality and car collector Jay Leno says that Shelby was the first American to beat Ferrari in Europe and he was a lot like Enzo Ferrari since neither were trained engineers, but they hired the right people and had the vision to create legendary sports cars. "Shelby was responsible for or involved with three of the coolest cars of the '60s: the GT350, the Cobra and the GT500," Leno said after hearing of Shelby's demise.

In fact, Shelby was the only individual to influence the designs of all three major American car makers since he helped Chrysler develop the supercharged 426 hp, V10 Dodge Viper in the 1990s.

In 1991, Shelby was inducted into the Automotive Hall of Fame. In his 80s, he continued developing cars, the last being the 655 hp 2013 Ford Shelby GT 500 Mustang V8. The model of his car was on sale with a $350,000 at a charity auction last January. Also in the works are an 880-hp Shelby GT 500 Super Snake, a street-legal 950-hp modified Mustang and a race ready version, the Shelby 1000. In 1994, Shelby drove a 1,200 hp, Ao Ford Motor Co. director Edsel B. Ford said, the automotive world has lost a legend, "one of the most recognized names in performance car history... whose enthusiasm and passion for great automobiles over six decades has truly inspired everyone who worked for him."

(Sources: The New York Times, L.A. Times, Motor Trend, USA Today)

Porsche posts convincing victory in World Endurance Race Round 7

THE VICTORS at the podium

AT THE Fuji International Speedway in Japan, works drivers Marc Lieb (Germany) and Richard Lietz (Austria) won the fiercely contested GT class at round seven of the new long distance world championship against Ferrari and Aston Martin.

At the wheel of the Porsche 911 GT3 RSR fielded by Felbermayr Proton, they held a clear advantage at the flag and celebrated their second win of the season after Spa-Francorchamps in front of 32,000 cheering fans. Christian Ried (Germany) and his Italian teammates Paolo Ruberti and Gianluca Roda rounded off the strong showing of the Porsche teams at the Tour of Motor Sup, scoring third place in the GTE Pro class.

An overcast day and 16 degrees Celsius—after the heat race in the desert of Bahrain, the conditions for the penultimate round of the World Endurance Championship were ideal for the Porsche 911 GT3 RSR. Marc Lieb and Richard Lietz demonstrated the pace in the GT class over the entire race weekend in Japan. They put in an impressive performance clocking best times at all practice sessions and secured the pole position in qualifying. In the race on the very demanding circuit, they defended themselves against tough competition and led over virtually the entire 6-hour race distance.

"That was a perfect weekend for us," said Richard Lietz. "From the very first day we were the fastest and could maximize our pace over the entire race distance. This is a wonderful success for the whole team." Marc Lieb added: "This second win of the season is entirely of our own doing, without rain and without having benefited from a safety car phase. We were able to utilize the full potential of the 911 GT3 RSR on this track. The conditions were exactly what we had hoped for."

"I'm thrilled about this win for the team and the drivers," said Porsche's head of motorsport, Hartmut Kristen. "When we came out of the practice and qualifying has worked well at the race today. This victory means a well deserved reward for all the hard work they've done. It's a great feeling to see our boys at the top of the podium again."

In the GT Am class, Christian Ried scored third place with Paolo Ruberti and Gianluca Roda in last year's 911 fielded by the Felbermayr-Proton squad. For the winners of the Sebring and Bahrain rounds, this marked the sixth podium result from seven races.

The eighth and final round of the World Endurance Championship (WEC) takes place on October 20 in Shanghai, China.

For information on available Porsche models in the Philippines, visit Porsche Philippines showroom at 209 EDSA Mandaluyong City or contact 7270681 to 85.

THE PORSCHE 911 GT3 RSR setting a furious pace.

CITIMOTORS LAS PIÑAS CDRR INAUGURATION

Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp. recently inaugurated another world-class showroom and service center in Las Piñas. The ceremony was attended by MMPC executive president and CEO Hikoshiro Shibata (fourth from left), along with other officials: MPP for marketing/treasury Orlando P. Alfonso Jr. (left); EVP, CFO and treasurer Randal Bagtas; executive vice president Tess Peñalosa; and Citimotors Corp. executive Phil Ching, Gordon Yang, Carlo Ching and Tony Yang. Not in photo was guest of honor Rep. Mark Villar of Las Piñas.

Colorado website offers easy to pick up info

All CHEVROLET Philippines continues to navigate the new and discerning market of pick-up trucks from having recently launched the all-new Colorado, it has found the perfect way to reach base with the people who need it most. Market studies have shown that the general profile of a pick up enthusiast is summed up by an active, achiever and multi-tasking lifestyle.

With that in mind, the extensive inventor and distributor of Chevrolet automobiles and parts in the Philippines, The Covenant Car Company Inc. (TCCCIC), has extended its usual services to include a Colorado website specific to the Philippines to make information more accessible and readily available anytime, anywhere.

Not surprisingly, the trend is the pick up segment is to go the same route as most of the car-buying public and practical consumers out there go to—the Internet. The development on our accessibility has encouraged a culture of making purchases on the strength of information and customer reviews. It's this new insight has spurred Chevrolet Philippines-TCCCIC to go the extra mile for prospective patrons.

Avaiee marketing manager, Ted Leonardo, who heads all digital initiatives for Chevrolet Philippines-TCCCIC, said: "We believe in the power of information and we want to be where our customers are as we find it essential to constantly listen to them and two of the main avenues to achieve this are through the social media network and a product website. We acknowledge that the public always has a right to know all the necessary details of what they're purchasing, so we're saving interested buyers their precious time and effort by presenting relevant information in these avenues to insight from a brand that prides itself with almost a hundred years of truck-building heritage, we're confident the newly launched www.chevrolet.com.ph that caters to the Filipino pickup truck market.

"Said he from just being a regular online brochure, we want the extra mile to present an appealing, responsive and engaging platform with easy access to learn more about the Colorado while enjoying their online interaction. In addition, we've conquered the world of Facebook (Chevrolet Colorado Philippines) and Twitter (@chevyphilmktg) as well so our customers or 'fans' and 'followers,' respectively can stay connected to us 24/7."

Links to Chevrolet's Twitter and Facebook accounts are as display in their corporate website: www.chevrolet.com.ph

Twilight proof cars

What cars should vampires give their human girlfriend

By Jeannie Igaya-Ramos

Drive-like a girl...fabulously

driven

EDWARD Cullen was the epitome of a perfect man. He is good-looking, tall, throaty-well, and he drives in the cars. He is a gentleman, well-mannered and old-natured; in fact, he has studied for more than 100 years. He is rich, he has a secret that protects the future (good for stock investment) and he can also read your mind. He is caring, sensitive, strong, fast, and immortal and a vampire. He fell in love with a weak human girl.

For many (true) Twilight fans, this has been the fantasy of the every "not-hard" Twilight fans), which included girls at age 13 to mothers who were already embarrassed to say they liked it and that they watched the movies without their children (or not yet). If a handsome, caring, sensitive and loyal-to-life guy would love you, who wouldn't want to live forever? But the truth is you're human, prone to accidents and cute dies by just hitting your head on the steering wheel if your accident happened before the 1970s (The airbag became standard when Ford Air as experimental floor of cars with frontal airbags in 1971). What cars should your vampire-boyfriend consider to keep you safe from the hazards of driving, on his can just focus on the other vampires who want to eat you?

Safety features to look for

The safety features of vehicles have come a long way from the introductions of the volkspeople shook shoulders that has given cars a smoother ride to the 1990s. According to the Chicago Tribune, there are new literature front ignition locks, front and Mercedes-Benz are now including inflatable seat belt as part of the safety features of some their vehicles.

Jim Gorzelany, a Forbes contributor and author of Automotive Intelligencia, reviewed several new innovations that make a car safer when driving on the road. These are: Electronic Stability Control, which adjusts the throttle and brake automatically to help reduce slipping and control loss; Blind Spot Alert and Crash Warning Signals, using sonar sensors and/or lasers, this alerts the driver on impending collisions with vehicles, pedestrians, objects and other vampires; Lane Departure Warning Assistance, which alerts you are veering away from your lane.

Other things that I thought would be helpful are rear side and fog cameras, a feature basically ensures that you are not going to be running Jacob over with it while shopping in-mall from because it shows you what is behind your car that is now within eye or mirror level. Adaptive head lights, which adjust angles and brightness; Active Brake Dynamics which aims to lessen tooth injuries on collision; Driver Fatigue Systems. Basically no, so both cameras and computers that detect if you are driving erratically from your normal conditions. Confidentiary also took into consideration the International Institute of Highway Safety ratings on the current vehicle models for front, rear, side-walls, seats and side-vest protections. So just to sum up, here are some of the safest cars available in the Philippine market.

The Volvo

According to Forbes "Safest Car for 2012" list, Edward Cullen's choice, which was featured on the Ron Livada movie as his personal car beside his Ducatti, was the Volvo. There were three entries in the Forbes list, which included the S60, S80 and the XC60, according to Edmunds' Philippines website all are available in the Philippines. Warning, Adaptive cruise control, blind spot information system, collision warning city and pedestrian version), driver alert system plus a lot of other active safety features. In the Volvo system, there is a steering bell and a message that is time for you to take a break or Edward has to go buy something.

Mercedes M class

Others the A Ultimate Plus proximity control, which basically loosens the stopping distances when traveling in high speed. It also has On-Pre-safe brakes, which not only assists in sudden warning on impending collision, it initiates driverless just in case you are too busy doing other things like fighting off the Volturi. The 89 Class has adaptive brake lights, Attention Assist and has options for active Lane Keeping and Active blind spot assist.

BMW 5 Series

Described by Forbes as the "sportiest midsize sedan on the road but after the called." Has adaptive headlamps, lane departure and collision warning, blind spot monitoring. It has night vision (good when you're doing nocturnal spying) and a video monitor for side/top view (Does it no way he can sneak up on you). Some models have an electronically controlled 4-wheel drive system that transfers power to wheels that don't have traction.

Audi A6 and A8

Both A6 and A8 are luxury sedans were included in the Forbes list. And it's are equipped with a lane change assistant called side assist, lane assist, assist bionic headlight and Audi's have the trademarked Quattro technology that puts premium power to all four wheels producing better traction. The A8 range has adaptive cruise control as well.

Even with these driver aids nothing beats being careful and driving smart. Technology cannot replace the human brain and responses. Of course at the end of the day, if you have a death wish or having your vampire boyfriend's hand into making you immortal, no amount of safety feature can keep you safe from mayhem.

For comments and suggestions, please email to jaya@yahoo.com, like us on Facebook/drivenbyyou or follow me at twitter @drivenbyyou.

BMW celebrates market leadership with 'Xpo'

By Charles E. Reben

IT WILL be a 10-day festival of all the best Asian Carmakers Corp. has to offer.

As the official importer and distributor of BMW brand of vehicles and motorcycles in the Philippines was able to maintain its top position, BMW Philippines finds new floor starting the BMW Xpo Pavilion at the corner of 26th Street and 9th Avenue in Bonifacio Global City from Oct. 19 to 21) will enjoy the best deals, exciting drive experiences and the most attractive selections of BMW-badged products.

"In celebration of BMW's continued leadership in the premium luxury segment—a 10 percent market share year to date—we will display the best of what BMW has to offer to the Philippine market and give our valued customers the best deals," promised AOC executive director for Sales and Marketing Glen Dong.

The AOC is supported by the BMW Group regional office for Asia in Singapore through BMW Asia Pte. Ltd.

Ultimate experience

The AOC conceived the BMW Xpo to provide all motorized car buyers the ultimate BMW-centered lifestyle experience.

He added: "The BMW Xpo is definitely a great opportunity for consumers to see what BMW vehicle would make the perfect fit for them. This is an opportunity for car to share BMW's success to our loyal clients, car enthusiasts, and encourage new premium buyers to invest on a BMW."

The BMW Xpo will feature special offers for BMW Premium Selection Models and Executive Vehicles.

Special pricing packages will be offered on brand new vehicles. Alongside the luxury cars and premium SUVs, different models of BMW Motorrad will also be on display and will be offered at special prices during the weekend.

"All visitors may even test drive available units during the event and will also get a chance to win BMW Lifestyle raffle items daily," concluded Dong.

BMW xDrive ramp

The BMW Xpo Pavilion will also feature the BMW xDrive ramp, which is designed to display the impressive power and performance of the BMW 3 Series and 5 Series xDrive technology.

There, buyers and visitors will have a chance to experience the thrill of going through the BMW xDrive ramp at 60 mph driven by professional BMW drivers.

Furthermore, there will also be a special weekend sale of BMW Lifestyle items (for more event information@bmw.com.ph for further inquiries).

"As one of the great brands in the world, BMW has been able to introduce several new model lines and grow sales globally while maintaining an edge in continuously developing technological breakthroughs as tributes to customers. This upcoming BMW Xpo is a perfect moment to appreciate what this iconic German brand has achieved," said Dong.

He reported that BMW's premium market leadership is being driven by the solid performances of the 3 Series and 5 Series, two of AOC's most important models.

The 3 Series, whose sixth generation model was introduced in the Philippine market last May, continues to be the the company's bestselling sport sedan while the 5 Series continues to dominated the premium SUV segment.

Headed by its chair, Jose Ch. Alvarez, AOC is a wholly owned Filipino company under the Alvarez Group of Companies. The AOC houses of the widest dealership network in the luxury vehicle segment with six dealers working closely under the AOC helm: Autoweb BMW in Cebu, Autohaus BMW in Quezon City, Autocontinuum BMW in Alabang, Prestige Cars BMW in Makati, Premier Cars BMW in Pampanga, and Premium Motoren BMW in Cagayan de Oro.

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FOTON offers practical business solutions at FOTON's Big Show 2012

UNITED ASIA Automotive Group Inc. (UAAGI), the distributor of FOTON in the Philippines, will showcase Asia's largest commercial vehicle manufacturer's latest offerings at the FOTON's Big Show 2012 to be held from Oct. 19 to 21, 2012, at the World Trade Center in Pasay City.

Aiming to empower business and keeping with FOTON's promise of Providing Value, Creating Wealth, FOTON's Big Show 2012 is the brand's way of showing its customers and clients full access to its complete line-up of commercial vehicle offerings. Featuring test drives, product reviews, user feedback sessions, discounts and easy to avail financial offerings from partner banks, the FOTON's Big Show is a one-stop shop where business can find their perfect utility partner.

"FOTON's Big Show 2012 is the perfect venue for those intending to find the right truck, van or utility vehicle at the right price for their businesses," says UAAGI president Rommel Tyhin. He adds, "FOTON's Big Show 2012 will showcase the latest technologies and innovations from FOTON, including new of our engine partners, the global brand Cummins, as it powers our latest pickup, the FOTON Thunder."

One of the highlights of the FOTON's Big Show 2012 is its latest high-end multipurpose pickup, the FOTON Thunder. Featuring an all-new modern design and packed with high-quality features, the FOTON Thunder is the first step in the brand's ongoing commitment to quality, performance and sustainability.

The FOTON Thunder is powered by the latest Cummins light-duty, high-performance ISF 2.8-Liter Common Rail Direct Injection (CRDI) engine produced through a 50/50 diesel engine manufacturing joint venture between Beijing Foton Motor Co. Ltd., manufacturer of FOTON quality commercial vehicles in China, and Cummins Inc., an American global powertrain and engine manufacturing. Able to meet stringent city and highway emission standards including Euro IV and above, the 140-horsepower, 388 Newton-meter torque Cummins-developed diesel motor is just the first of a lineup of engines the partnership will produce for the Chinese and global markets.

THE THUNDER Pickup is the Big Show's Big Star.

The stylish and thoroughly contemporary FOTON Thunder is well-equipped to handle the demanding requirements of professionals and organizations as it combines power, performance, precision engineering and good looks in one tight package.

FOTON's Big Show 2012 will likewise highlight the brand's expansive lineup of vehicles from pickups and vans to light and heavy-duty trucks and heavy machineries. Developed in cooperation with key technical partners such as BOSCH, Lotus, Motorola, Daimler and Cummins, FOTON's commercial vehicles represent its unrelenting global expansion efforts. FOTON's aggressive product portfolio effectively fills the whole range of commercial vehicle categories further cementing the fact why it is the world's largest manufacturer of business vehicles.

"FOTON has been manufacturing commercial vehicles since 1996 and since then it has continued to expand to meet global demand," says Tyhin. In fact, Foton has established manufacturing plants in Russia, Turkey, Mexico, Indonesia, Vietnam, Pakistan and Iran. He adds, "FOTON's strategy of diversified business and collaborated development benefits it's consumers as it gives them a wide selection of commercial vehicles for their business and family needs."

Visit FOTON's Big Show 2012 at the World Trade Center. The exhibit is open from 10:00 am to 9:00 pm. Experience the best deals available for FOTON commercial vehicles such as high capacity trucks and power up deals, discounts, gifts, prizes, and flexible financing schemes from top commercial chains and be inspired by their success to open here to be conducted at the show hall. And have a chance of bringing home the FOTON vehicle of your choice with an on-the-spot financing application and delivery of vehicle bundled financing companies in the country.

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Ylang Lane Townhouses attract good chi

Ylang Lane is situated in an area of Quezon City considered by feng shui experts as especially favorable for prosperity

By Kenneth del Rosario

HOME buyers immediately know when they feel good about a place. This nearly indefinable instinct may have something to do with that space-air connection, how the light strikes the window just right, or simply the property's proximity to malls and banquets.

But the truly discerning knows that it is all about the chi energy, and how this is harnessed by combining the right elements for good living and. Top real estate developers go to great lengths and pass on considerable costs to get everything just right in order to attract positive energy.

This ancient Chinese principle is certainly an important consideration for Malayan Properties Inc. next endeavors in developing its exclusive townhouse cluster, Ylang Lane, at the heart of New Manila.

The people behind Ylang Lane believe that good feng shui creates the property's lucky residents, as every step of the construction process has been governed by it. With its lushly vegetated terrain carefully shaping it to direct the good chi, the townhouse will further claim its youthful and vibrant energy, as it fronts a school. Furthermore, Ylang Lane is situated in an area of Quezon City considered by feng shui experts as especially favorable for prosperity.

While Malayan Properties has invested well in tapping into the chi energy of the site, its designs for Ylang Lane will remain by top other appealing factors. With only seven units, this exclusive townhouse development is designed for prestige, as well as beauty, durability and environment sustainability. Its big cubic like interiors with robust bamboo flooring evoke the tranquility of the Asian resorts.

Each unit has a floor area of 344.5 sq. m., rising four stories high from the three-car garage up to a grand penthouse with a rooftop garden and terrace. Even the unit is surrounded by lush vegetation. The compound will have a wide interior road and open area for uncommon gardens and playground.

Ylang Lane celebrates the idyllic living in "master piece" of a home designed by the team and really acclaimed Philippine architecture advocate, Francisco "Bobby" Mañosa. The great architect is renowned for capturing the Filipino spirit in his designs and elevating it into world-class status in residential and commercial creations.

Mañosa has admitted to distilling his design philosophy of over 35 years in Ylang Lane, and applying "green" architecture on its landscaping, water features and enclosures, and interior spaces that allow for abundant natural lighting and ventilation.

Each Ylang Lane unit starts at P22 million. Construction is ongoing, with turnover scheduled to July 2013.

For more info, visit www.mapacor.com.

Quality urban living space at Sorrel Residences

HOMES spacious to have an unbeatable lounge-across chair, mainly through the cramped living spaces and poor quality of life that are commonly found in many residential projects.

While assembly of this developer can not to present this limited space conditions, there are still a number of master plans that are committed to providing the market with quality products that breathe the urban dweller. DMCI Homes, notably, offers highly-crammed products that attract both discerning end users and investors.

Among the company's best attributes are the efficient by planned condo units that are unsurpassable to those offered by other developers in the adjoining vicinity.

In its latest project in Sampaloc, Manila called Sorrel Residences, residents can enjoy urban high-rise living in condo units that suit the market's various needs. These units, which range from 20 sq. m. to 77 sq. m. in a floor area, are ideal as a first home for young professionals or as a bedroom house for students and urban professionals.

Each of the available unit configurations—studio, 1-bedroom, 2-bedroom, and 3-bedroom—is efficiently designed with the urban lifestyle of the residents in mind. All condo units have areas properly allocated to living spaces (dining, kitchen, bedrooms), and toilet and bath(s), and open

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Smart, stylish, and secure living space for students

By Raquel P. Gomez

THERE'S no let-up in real estate development targeting the student market, particularly the big population of students of De La Salle University on Taft Avenue as another residential project 2 Torre Lorenzo emerges just across the private Catholic university that keeps on expanding.

2 Torre Lorenzo is one of the projects developed by Grand Hanks Lorenzo Corp. (GMLC), the company behind Torre Lorenzo I, one of the early residential condominiums along De La Salle's vicinity.

According to Joey Lorenzo, sales and marketing head of GMLC, 2 Torre Lorenzo is mainly built to cater to the needs of students, such as toilet cubicles that already come furnished. The units (one-bedroom and two-bedroom units) are all Wi-Fi ready and come with built-in electric stove top, range hood, kitchen cabinet, wardrobe closet and bathroom accessories and fixtures.

In addition, carefully selected establishments are placed on the ground floor of the building providing occupants with access to services they will need.

As it is primarily built to house students, 2 Torre Lorenzo is particular about security which is a main concern for parents. The first-rate safety and security features of the building includes secure home-residential lobby with 24-hour reception, smart card access, and round-the-clock security.

Rest and recreation facilities for residents will include a swimming pool, a fitness center, a study hall, a function room, and a coed deck garden.

The first Torre Lorenzo project was built in 2001 on prime space on the corner of Taft Avenue and Wilson Street. The project was built at a time when there were only few residential developments targeting the students in the area. The project has gained a solid reputation for superior amenities and effective property management, proving that real estate for students is a lucrative investment in the long run.

"Torre Lorenzo I was among the early projects that started to attract the student population, which eventually created a real estate demand. Homeowners or investors for students in the part of Manila were looking in a lot of things such as security, amenities or an environment conducive to learning. Torre Lorenzo presented a very viable option for parents who were looking for a good and secure place for their children. With Torre Lorenzo project, they've also invested in something tangible such as real estate," said Lorenzo.

2 Torre Lorenzo employs a total of five barracks of the first project. The project, which began construction in 2008, is compact, stylish, and secure living space for young professionals, students, and families. It is a 20-storey mixed-use low density residential condominium that offers only 23 units per floor. With its four high-speed elevators, 2 Torre Lorenzo provides its residents the ease and speed of transport to and from their units.

According to Lorenzo, units range from 24 sq. m. to 31 sq. m. and are offered at P2.5 million to P3.6 million.

The opportunities have been opened to more investors through flexible payment terms. 2 Torre Lorenzo has aligned up with several banks so that buyers can avail of the easy 30/60 arrangements—which translates to as low as P16,000 a month.

In addition, the project offers a promo discounts to buyers who wishes purchase multiple units.

Already a number of parents who have children studying in De La Salle have invested into the property. "I cannot wait to have my son move into one new unit in 2 Torre Lorenzo and save him from the hassle of driving from our home in Laguna to his classes in Taft," said businessman Ricardo Yulon Jr., who has a freshman son studying in De La Salle. He said acquiring a unit in 2 Torre provides him with a peace of mind knowing that his son would live in a safe, secure and convenient place.

Among the properties sourced by Cayetano Cuenco, a bed and breakfast owner in Sanchez City, the choice 2 Torre Lorenzo because of its prime location. "There's a high demand from professionals or students. Whatever have people is near the property. And having an experienced property manager means they can take care of issues and all these concerns even while I'm in Bacolod."

GMLC is a subsidiary of Lagundoy Property in Philippines, Inc. (LPPI), the real estate group owned by the Lorenzo family. LPPI's expertise is acquiring, consolidating, and converting land is evident in several successful residential and commercial projects in Makati, Muntinlupa, Laguna, and Davao.

To get exclusive more about 2 Torre Lorenzo, call (02) 813-8888 or log on to their website: www.2torrelorenzo.com. You may also attend its open house event on Oct. 26.

IN THE HEART OF FAIRVIEW, QUEZON CITY ALONG PROPOSED MRT-7 LINE

Neopolitan Business Park to ride 'wave' of progress

THE DEVELOPMENT of the Neopolitan Business Park, residential, business and leisure complex in Fairview, Quezon City, is keeping in pace with the construction of the Metro Rail Transit Line 7 (MRT-7) which is aimed to begin construction this year.

When completed, the 22-kilometer rail line will have 14 stations starting from North Avenue and EDSA in Quezon City, going through Commonwealth Avenue, and all the way to San Jose del Monte in Bulacan.

"We anticipate a boost in the progress and development of areas where the new MRT-7 line is passing through, as an increase in people's access and mobility also drives economic activity. It's the best time for the residential owners to be concerned in the Neopolitan Business Park, as this benefits residents and the southern subdivisions that will take up residence in the complex," said Winfred Bobier of Ilos Land Land, which is behind the Neopolitan Business Park project.

"We are riding on the wave, so to speak, of the boom in the development of Fairview that the new MRT line will bring," he said. Bobier added that the completion of the Neopolitan Business Park will be just in time for the opening of the MRT-7 line, which passes very close to the property.

The business park is strategically located along Mindanao and Regalado Avenues. The MRT-7 will have a stations right at Regalado. The MRT-7 is projected to be completed in about two to three years.

"For both future residents and investors of the business park, having an MRT-7 station right along Regalado Avenue will make travel to and from Neopolitan so much faster, affordable, and convenient. This takes away so much stress from travelling through traffic during rush hours.

"And since the MRT-7 also passes through North Avenue and connects with the MRT-3 along the main EDSA artery, they will also have easy access to the hubs of business, leisure and health care in Quezon City, Makati, Ortigas and the rest of the metropolis," said Bobier.

The Neopolitan Business Park complex is ideal for residential and office condominiums, townhouses, hotels, SOHO offices, hotels, flats, retail, and fast food restaurants; convenience stores and drug stores; beauty salons and barbershops; an entertainment arcade; cafe and mini-style showrooms; and an appliances center.

It will have a state-of-art hospital facility and will provide access to a wide selection of schools, churches, shops and supermarkets, and other points of interest. Residents and workers will also be within walking distance of a wide selection of restaurants for casual and fine dining, featuring cuisine from around the globe.

Neopolitan Condominiums is owned and developed by Ilos Land Land Inc., one of the pioneering and most trusted developers in the Philippines. Interested parties may get in touch with Ilos Pacific Realty and Brokerage Corp. at www.ilosland.com.ph/neopolitan or call 995-2248, 912-9888 or 911-0404.

Quality urban living space at Sorrel Residences

From page B1 >

ty hold out by DMCI Homes is response to the market's needs and the company's cumulative experience from its past projects.

Based on such extensive experience, DMCI Homes also designed the Sorrel Residences' condo units to be first-rate all the way with fixtures and finishing. This includes ceramic tiles with baseboard for the kitchen, living and dining areas, low-maintenance resilient flooring with baseboard for the bedrooms, a granite finish kitchen countertop with cabinet system, wooden doors, and framed sliding glass panels. Such features allow residents more joy, saving thousands of pesos in upgrades that are routinely expended at other condo projects.

All of the residential units will also have a balcony ranging in size from 3 sq. m. to 12 sq. m. as another extra space for the residents, not to mention access to other superior building features that are DMCI Homes signature turn-attributes, such as scenic elevators, single-loaded hallways, four levels of basement parking, 24-hour security, one vehicle ground level drop-off to amenities, and even a Sky Park level for more leisure options.

Condo space in the five-connected through generous amenities such as the lap pool and kiddie pool, the wide garden atrium, fitness gym, and easy lounge areas. These outdoor and indoor leisure hubs can be maximized anytime by the residents to complement their self-county-sized condo units, either for active or passive recreational activities.

With only approximately 592 units allocated throughout the 23-storey residential building, residents can indulge in a low-density high-rise address for the ultimate in urban comfort.

Lastly, Sorrel Residences is also value for money in the best condo property in the market. With a price range of P3.8 million to P5.4 million, future buyers can truly afford to live within the city while saving enough for a quality life with the family.

For inquiries on Sorrel Residences and other DMCI Homes projects, call 324-8888 or visit www.dmcihomes.com.

DDC Land: 'Building Homes for Life' one house at a time

A HOME one can call his own—this is a dream shared by many Filipinos who are homeownership as a stepping stone for a better life. That is why for more than a decade DDC Land has been working on making the vision of "Building Homes for Life" a reality for every Filipino.

With 16 years of experience in real estate development, the company is one of the leaders in the affordable housing market in Southern Luzon where its 8,000 unit developments, the Sta. Rosa Garden Villas, holds the distinction of being the largest affordable housing development in Sta. Rosa City, Laguna. The company specializes in building affordable, innovative like residential subdivisions with a choice of duplex and quadruplex units.

Compared to its competitors, DDC Land says its developments boast large average floor areas per unit, less congestion and increased privacy due to the spaces between houses, stylishly designed housing units, and greater durability while keeping its prices at par with industry standards.

"We want to dispel the image that buying an affordable house means you would have to live in cramped, poorly built and designed houses, that is why we construct our units as if we are the ones who will live there," says Edna Fabito the company's executive vice president.

To deliver on its promise of quality homes for its homeowners, the company has invested on their own cement and concrete batching plant to ensure best quality at the lowest cost. Through innovative construction techniques and efficient house designs, their houses come with touches reminiscent of more expensive units the greatest for building a first home.

The company has also ventured into retailing with the upcoming opening of its Garden Plaza shopping center within the Garden Villas. The mall is situated in a 3.8 hectare multi-phase commercial/industrial development and boasts over eight thousand square meters of retail space. Future ways the region the mall to be a major retail hub capable of meeting the needs of residents in Garden Villas and surrounding areas.

Now, the company is gearing up for a major expansion that will see it moving beyond Sta. Rosa City and into the congested Southern Metro Manila Area with a mix of high end and affordable housing developments in Muntinlupa and Cavite.

Luxury living overlooking *idyllic* Manila Bay

By Charles C. Rubio

THE ALLURE of living living along the famous Roxas Boulevard in Manila is easy to understand. There is a world at your fingertips, with recreational dining, cultural and historical attractions such as Intramuros and Rizal Park, world-class shopping and an outstanding offering of international-caliber gaming destinations.

Enhancing the view of a total lifestyle are the spectacular views that residents enjoy from the windows of the 29-story Eton Baypark Manila. Whether day-time or evening, the panoramas of the mesmerizing Manila Bay, winning night lights of Roxas Boulevard, the distant skyline of Makati are breathtaking to behold.

"Of course, those facing west would be rewarded with one of Manila's most enduring charms, the beautiful and marvelous sunset across Manila Bay. It's a bay area located in the charming yet elegant, with an opportunity for exceptional living," described Eton Properties Philippines, Inc. SVP for Business Management Fritz Nobleza.

Eton Baypark Manila, located on a 1,744-sqm lot at the corner of Roxas Boulevard and TM Kalaw Street, is the third the three in-line developments of Eton Properties in Manila (the others being Eton Residences Greenbelt in Makati and Eton Residences Quezon City).

Strategic location. ETON Baypark Manila sits at the corner of Roxas Boulevard and Kalaw St.

Elevator Lobby

Lobby

Gym

Archers Place and 8 Adriatico

Bold statement

"With Eton Baypark Manila, we want to make a bold statement similar to what the company has done in China and Hong Kong. The fully fitted units are much bigger—80 sqm for the 1-bed room and 90 sqm for the 2-bed. rooms—and the furnishings meet one of higher quality," shared Nobleza who added that prices range from P9 million for the 1-bedroom unit and P15 million for the 2-bedroom unit. Penthouse units cost P25 million.

For the families and individuals moving in they would find that their 2-bedroom units, for example, are already equipped with a 32-inch LCD TV & Home Theatre System, a microwave, an 11 cu.ft refrigerator and a window face-in-out units, a free standing washer and dryer, range hood, a water-in, a dryer, accent chair, queen and double size beds with sheets and pillows, curtains, dining set, entertainment cabinet, chairs, bedside table, bed side light, and sidewalk throw pillows.

All units have Wi-Fi connections and are cable-ready.

"For us to provide that luxurious and comfortable accommodation, each unit of Eton Baypark Manila is furnished with best-in-class furnishings and appliances," said Nobleza.

To match the upscale accommodation, Eton Properties equipped the whole development with modern recreational facilities such as a swimming pool, function room amongst others in the works is a food outlet and a bank at the ground-floor retail arcade.

Perfect solution

"For those who love to stroll by the bay, enjoy the alfresco night life but can't imagine life without the energy and conveniences of city living, Eton Baypark Manila offers the perfect solution. Walk out of the building and you are just steps away from fine dining, vibrant nightlife and the most relaxing allure. This is the sort of lifestyle that we at Eton Properties feel, would like to offer," said Nobleza.

Nobleza said the current demand for luxury properties along the Roxas Boulevard-Manila Bay area is strong. "We've seen a lot of interest as of late in luxury high-rise condominiums."

Sold out

Nobleza notes how Eton Baypark Manila has sold out just a few months after it was offered to the market saying that the property epitomizes what is demanded about luxury condo living in the city.

Eton Properties is the real estate arm of the Lucio Tan group of companies. The company entered the Philippine real estate scene in 2007 and since then has launched more than 40 distinctive developments in the Philippines encompassing residential, township, commercial and office developments in various growth areas in the country (the flagship being the 1,000 hectare Eton City township in Santa Rosa City, Laguna).

The Eton name stands as an enviable track record of proven leadership and excellence in property development.

It should be noted that Eton Properties Group in China and Eton Properties Limited in Hong Kong are established and highly recognized international property players with world class premier developments in Hong Kong, Dalian, Xiamen, Shenyang, Beijing and Shanghai.

Nobleza shared that the year 2012 may be regarded as another good year for Eton Properties as the company launches new and exciting developments.

"With Eton Baypark Manila, Eton Properties is creating new and beautiful beginnings for the Filipino family through finely-crafted homes that allow them to explore all of life's exciting possibilities. We draw inspiration from our foreign countrymen's masterful expertise, vast experience and resounding commitment to quality as a world-acknowledged real estate industry prime mover and innovator," he declared.

Swimming pool

MEGAWORLD Corp., the country's pioneer in township development, recently held its concrete pouring ceremony for 8 Horizons Boulevard, a luxury development in The Horizons Mactan in Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu. Set to be completed in December 2014, the four-tower 8 Horizons Boulevard will serve as a landmark in the leading township development of the country's largest real estate company featuring pre-furnished Japanese-inspired units—the latest of spectacular views of the Mactan Bay and Kharungan Channel. Present during the ceremony were (from left) Ronald G. Baloso, Megaworld Corp.'s project in charge; Virgilio J. Cornelio, vice president for Visayas operations; Mel Hernandez, senior vice president for sales and marketing; Manuel S. Mendoza, president of Mandani Advisors Inc.; P. Fernandez, construction manager of Mandani Construction and Development Corp. (MCDC); and Anthony A. Dela Cruz, project in-charge of MCDC.

PH building gains international attention

Zuellig Building a finalist for design and excellence award; online voting launched

A NEW Philippine landmark may yet bring prestige to the country. The new 33-storey Zuellig Building, located at the intersection of Makati Avenue and Paseo de Roxas in the Makati Central Business District, has been chosen as one of the top three buildings in the "Best Office and Business Development" category of the internationally renowned MIPIM Asia Awards. It is also the first building in the Philippines to be recognized by MIPIM.

While the winners of the MIPIM Asia Award will be determined by an official jury and delegates, public online voting can give the Zuellig Building the first ever "Your Choice Award."

Recently, an active campaign on mainstream and social media for public online voting has helped put the Philippines on the tourists map when the Puerto Princesa Underground River became one of the New 7 Wonders of Nature. This time, a sustainable structure within the country's premier business district stands to benefit from the same "can-do" spirit of Filipinos, who are very active online.

This is the first time MIPIM opened the voting to the public. Voting on the MIPIM website (www.mipim.com/en/mipim_asia/programme/inputs_asia-awards-voting/) is open until Nov. 1. The final ranking of the winners will be announced in every session on Nov. 6 in Hong Kong. Moreover, a lucky voter on the "Your Choice Award" stands to win an iPad.

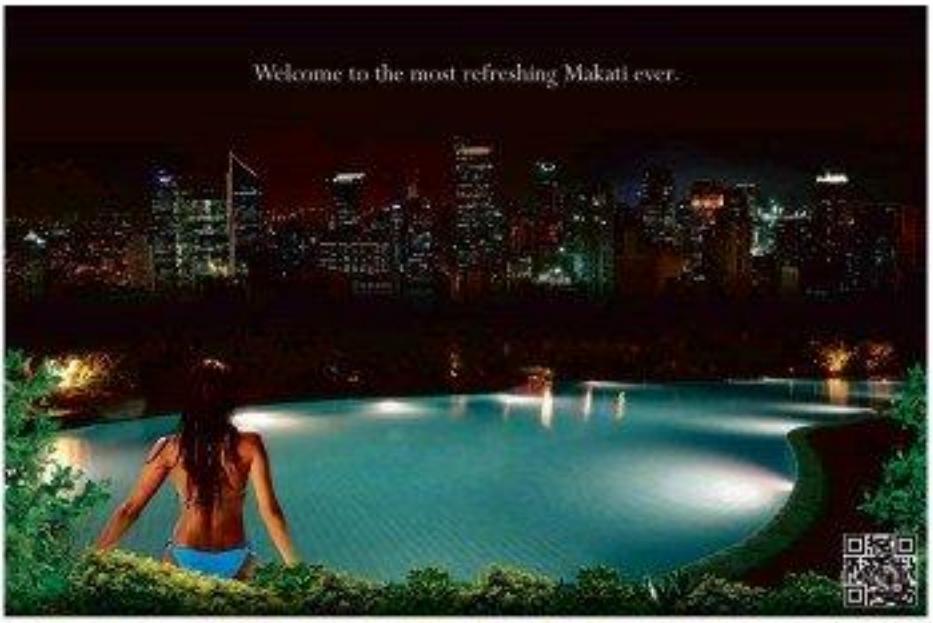
For "Best Office and Business Development" category, the Zuellig Building's competitors are Hong Kong's 10 Chancery Road Central and China's Tianjin Global Financial Center. In finalists, the three buildings are vying for a Gold, Silver or Bronze award.

Prior to it being a finalist, the Zuellig Building had already gained attention for being the first high rise project in the Philippines awarded with a Gold pre-certification under the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (Core and Shell) (LEED-CS) program of the US Green Building Council (USGBC).

The Zuellig Building is the newest premium grade office in Makati. The collaboration of world-class architects, engineers and consultants allowed the project team to follow global standards of green architecture, construction methodologies and resource efficient operations.

To vote for the Zuellig Building, visit http://www.mipim.com/en/mipim_asia/programme/inputs_asia-awards-voting/.

Each year, the most innovative and ambitious real estate projects around the world are recognized for their design of history and excellence. The MIPIM (Le marché international des professionnels de l'immobilier) Asia Award is a recognition given by global real estate industry leaders to properties and developments in several categories: Best Hotel and Tourism Resort, Best Industrial and Logistics Development, Best Office and Business Development, Best Refurbished Building, Best Residential Development, Best Shopping Centre, Best Future Project, Best Private Mega Project, Best German Project, Special Jury Award and the People's Choice Award. MIPIM has its roots in Cannes and was initiated 22 years ago with a special focus on real estate development in the Asia-Pacific region.



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Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan

LIFESTYLE Parenting

Audrey Tan-Zubiri

MAMA DIARIES

When helping others becomes a family matter

The Jollibee Foundation's latest Family Values awardees epitomize what 'loving service' means

NOWADAYS, THERE are so many pressing issues in our country, such that the importance of families is overlooked. But as Pope John Paul II said, as quoted by Jollibee Foundation president Grace Tan Caktiong, "As family goes, so goes the nation. As nations goes, so goes the world in which we live all."

It was for this reason that the founda-

tion chose to celebrate the family through the recently concluded Jollibee Foundation Family Values Award. At the start of the deliberations, we all agreed that instead of honoring four winners be chosen from each geographical category (Metro Manila, Southern Luzon, Northern Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao), we would choose winners based simply on merit, regardless of where they were from.

But as we finalized the winners' circle, we were pleasantly surprised to find that we had managed to choose winners from more or less every category! We find a Jollibee family Values Award winner from Metro Manila, Luzon, Visayas and two very deserving winners from Mindanao.

Living their heritage

Alice Batiz was born to a family of Ifugao farmer farmers in the Mountain Province. Being the eldest child in his family, he was raised to be hardworking and responsible. He managed to finish high school but stopped studying in order to work and help his younger siblings finish their education.

Meanwhile, his wife, Irma Aliwis, hails from the Bukidnon people's cultur-

PAGE 12

CHRISTINA Bruckner, David Cotillon and Barbara Ricotta

MICHELLE Lee and Kevin Tan

SEVERINE Wiadlin, Jonathan Crespi, Stephanie Zuleki

G. TODINOS, SSI merchandising manager Reana Rosario and Michael Curandang

Top French skincare house opens flagship store

OTHMAR'S Mutt to Agatha Borja and Ron dell'Rosario

LYCEUTADE opened its first flagship store in the Philippines at the Second Mall, Rosario World Manila.

Leading the opening was L'Occitane Asia Pacific president Andre Hoffman and Evora Specialties Inc. SVP Anton Huang, no less. They were joined in the ribbon-cutting ceremony by Madame Isabelle Guichou, wife of the French ambassador.

The festivities continued with an exclusive dinner at Sagrestanos, also at Rosario World, hosted by musicians Hoffman and Huang.

Designers Raja Laurel and Inno Soto were there; paleograna, and so were jewelers Michael Curandang and actress Gisella Tuvugi.

AIMEE Romero and Cristina Bartolome of Cebu Pacific

BUN Jacinto, VISA country manager for the Philippines; Melody Marcelo, Paolo Abrera

AJ Nario, Blanca Cruz and Mary Joy Rivera

OTHMAR, corporate affairs director Arnelli Lim, Cebu Pacific VP Candice Iyog and Citibank credit payment products head Bea Tan

PAM Calonsabe with, from left, Raj Sadhwani, Mitch Mulli, Stephen Ku and Matthew Lim

CLUB Limestone

STORE Specialists Inc. GM Elizabeth Quisumbing, L'Occitane Asia Pacific president Andre Hoffman, Isabelle Guichou and SSI VP Anton Huang

INNO Soto, Andre Hoffman, Mia Alonzo and Raja Laurel, at right, Cebu serving at L'Occitane celebration

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen
powered by MAC HAIR

Without batting an eyelash, Maurice Arcache purchased a distillery and in his younger years and his very first removal oil," said Hoffman. "Rassam expanded his essential oils to a full cosmetic range now available in over 2,000 shops worldwide and 413 in Asia. Over the course of more than three decades, there have been many milestones in the brand's history."

We were also told that during its 30th anniversary in 2006, L'Occitane Foundation was created, "designed to support visually impaired people, seek the economic empowerment of women and men, and preserve knowledge about nature," said Hoffman.

An even bigger year for the company was 2008, when the first L'Occitane store in the Philippines opened during which it also launched its Cebu-certified Organic Essentials range.

The excellent six-course formal dinner was superbly done by impressionist Rene at Shanna Hotel.

The last three years "were also years for celebration for L'Occitane," said Huang. "The year 2009 saw the launch of the 20-year anti-aging cream, renewed and proven with three patents," he said.

This was followed in 2010 "with the introduction of L'Occitane in the Hong Kong Airport Duty-Free."

Last year, Huang said, "the company launched its Angelina range, further expanding its product line."

Cebu Pacific Citibank Card

Citibank and Cebu Pacific have teamed up and come up with the Cebu Pacific Citibank Card, giving Filipinos more reasons to travel around the country and abroad.

During the launching at Filipinas Heritage Library they presented the Juan Pere Ticket promotion, which rewards new Cebu Pacific Citibank cardholders with, take note, paleograna, a free one-way ticket to nearly 40 domestic destinations.

"The Cebu Pacific Citibank Card is one of the most successful launches we've seen in more than 20 years that we've been serving credit cardholders in the Philippines," said Citibank credit payment products director Bea Tan. "With this promo, we hope more Filipinos can experience the joy of discovering their own country."

The promo is linked with the Department of Tourism's (DOT) "It's more fun in the Philippines" campaign. "We hope to contribute to this tourism campaign by inviting consumers to make local travels through more convenient opportunities and offers such as the Juan Plane Ticket promo," said Cebu Pacific vice president for marketing Candice Iyog.

The launch took on a Filipino fiesta ambiance, complete with yummy Filipino dishes from Top of the Citi by chef Jessie Sincioco, dahlings.

Cebu Pacific credit card comes with loads of rewards. You get notifications of sale six to four days before the sale goes public, earn one credit-card point that never expires for every peso spent on the card, plus other treats at the ribbon facility exclusive to Cebu Pacific Citibank cardholders, regardless of travel date or destination.

Draft Gastropub

Who would have thought a high-end beer joint would become one of the most popular places to see and be seen in?

Well, the hard-to-beat Draft Gastropub has just marked its first year as the foremost pub-in-town.

It's the brainchild of incredibly young achievers such as Erik Cua, Stephen Ku, Matthew Lim, Raj Sadhwani, Mitch Mulli, Ivan Zalameda, Manolet Dario and Marco de Guzman.

It just celebrated its success as the "No. 1 pub" in our town in a party that saw overflowing drinks such as Broke, Stella Artois and Hoegaarden, which drowned the scrumptious delights by acclaimed chef Carlo Miguel, no less, paleograna.

Guests were entertained by "Bankinole night" hosted by Draft's Stephen Ku, as Gigi Lorenzana and the band played hit records that perfectly matched the world-class beer and food, paleograna.

More surprises came our way when the pub announced a new launch will open its doors sooner than soon in Rockwell, dahlings.

Draft Gastropub's anniversary was sponsored by Air Asia and Asianyana Smart. Ideally the sponsor was Zalora, the online fashion store.

WELINA Ramonte

BUBBLES Perino and Rong Zubiaga

CHEF Carlo and wife Rio Miguel

DRAFT Gastropub gang: Matthew Lim, Mitch Mulli, Stephen Ku, Raj Sadhwani, Ivan Zalameda, Manolet Dario, and chef Carlo Miguel

When helping others becomes a family matter

From page C2

both husband and wife are proud of their heritage and live it by continuing their practices and traditions.

They have also taken on the responsibility of providing livelihood for members of their own respective indigenous communities by hiring them to work as farmers together with the couple in their farm in Bukidnon. Their farm hands are not anyone who is far from, but hands more, out of the generosity of the Intes family.

During harvest season, they automatically set aside a portion of their crops and profits to share with the community. This is done regardless of whether the season's yield is abundant or lean. Aside from this, the Intes's is busy with their monthly gift giving within the community and regular feeding programs.

The Intes' couple has three children, Nicholas, Adelina and Abraham Mac, who are all studying. The family believes in the value of education, and it is their top priority. Despite their busy schedules worldwide, the children are actively involved in community service with their parents.

The feeding programs are considered a family bonding activity, with everyone having their own role to play. During the monthly gift giving, the couple's children help in handing the gifts folks on the direction of Alex and Anna Marie, while the children pack the items and participate in the distribution.

The children are also especially involved in the preparations for the occasions that the Intes family regularly host. It is during these occasions that they are able to display and pass on the traditions of their parents' heritage through the traditional dances, rituals and wearing of the native costumes.

Alex and Anna Marie is not ensuring not only that their communities prosper by providing jobs, livelihood and assistance, but that their tribe will continue to thrive and live in value they are and hold on to their identity in the middle of this fast and changing world.

The power of love

"Simple kindness can make a big difference."

These were the exacting words that caught our attention when it was time to read the stories of the Gardener family from Zamboanga Sibugay. As we discussed the community service background of Jason and his wife, Jennifer, someone inside the jobs that this family was like a "one-man marching band" if you consider all the things they are involved with.

ALEX and Anna Marie Intes with Ish Hurtado and Aldean and Jollibee Family Values Awards judge Audrey Zubiri (center)

Jason, the patriarch, is the first to say that service to others was not always his priority in life. Growing up without his parents made Jason angry and resentful young man. Fortunately, his grandmother showered him with the love he needed. Eventually, he met Jennifer and through her kindness and patience, Jason found himself wanting to be a better person.

It was then that he realized the lasting power of a person's love for others, and vowed that he would do the same for those who need it, just as he was once did.

Today, Jason, Jennifer and their children, Joy, Joshua and Jay are actively involved in as many endeavors as they can handle. Not everyone has the capacity to put up a foundation but everyone is capable of giving their time and effort to volunteer and make sure that there is someone out in the general to carry out the work. After all, volunteerism are the heart of every service-oriented foundation.

Jason and his family are part of the Tzu Chi Foundation, which gives immediate medical assistance to the less-fortunate. They are also active volunteers for the Rotary Club of Ilaya which provides scholarships for children who have to swim across rivers and open water just to get to school.

During one trip that Jason made to check on the status of the beneficiary students in a particularly dangerous area, he actually got bit by a snake, a second which, fortunately, was not fatal.

The family is involved in the efforts to build the Yellow Boots of Hope, a female dormitory for students who would like to study but live too far away from any school.

Recently, the Gardener family also initiated the building of a "school bond" in the Kabasalan National High School. The high school is in a remote location, causing many students to drop out. They were able to collect enough funds to build a home which houses 17 male students who now have the opportunity to have a better future.

Recently, Jason's dream of establishing his own foundation came to fruition when he put up "Sibugay Funds for Little Kids," which aims to help less fortunate students in the community get a proper education by raising funds for their school supplies and uniforms.

Their first project was the purchase and distribution of slippers for the children who usually walk barefoot across kilometers of dirt roads. For this, Jennifer and the children approached everyone they could to help them buy the needed slippers.

People have many needs, but we don't always have to address the biggest ones, which may immobilize us with their immensity. We start with needs that we can efficiently address.

At 12-year-old Joshua said, "Bahit kung bago lang ang ayos kong tiklipas, meuuna sa iba ko bahala sa kanila."

Jason's parents are media overnight. They are products of hard work, determination and sacrifice. What all these families lived in common was a sincere devotion to the Lord, which they successfully translated into unconditional love and compassion for their neighbors and, of course, for our ancestors.

As in anything worth doing in life, it is not always easy for these families to continue with what they have started and to honor their commitments. They too, have their own pressing needs and problems, but through a lifetime of loving service, this has become their life, and they would not have it any other way. Bravo.

Group exhibit opens at Boston

Ed Tan's acrylics and mixed media painting exhibit opens on Oct. 20, 6 p.m. at the Boston Gallery, Boston and Lantana Streets, Davao. Runs until Oct.

Participating artists are Andy Acuña, Elmer Borlongan, Tedi Cama-hobo, Mitch Cruz, Ed Tan, Jason Wilson Ma. Randy Manalo, Pol Mesina, Renato Rivarola, Jun Rocha, Egbert Rocas, Fernando Sotto and Andy Uang.

Guest artist is Paulo Borlongan.

Exhibit will run until Nov. 8. Part of the proceeds will go to the CMU Foundation.

Misibis Bay vacation at 61-percent off

Citibank cardholders can enjoy up to 61-percent off at Misibis Bay plus the choice to pay at zero percent installments for as long as 12 months with Citibank PayLite.

Using any Citibank Credit Card, have a three-day-two-night package for two per room in a Garden View Room at Misibis Bay, Albay, for P11,000. That's P1,250 per month at zero-percent installments for one year. Booking is until Nov. 30.

Enjoy huge discounts during the peak season and pay P34,000 for bookings from Dec. 1-May 31, 2013. Avail of Citibank's 0% PayLite offer and pay P3,040 to 12 monthly installments. The Misibis Bay package includes breakfast, airport transfers and use of non-motorized sports equipment.

Citibank is also offering exclusive discounts to Fairways and Bluewater in Boracay for bookings until May 31, 2013, except from Dec. 23-Jan. 2, 2013, the week of Chinese New Year and Holy Week.

Citibank cardholders can stay in a Superior Room good for four persons for three days and two nights for P5,000. With PayLite, pay only P750 per month at zero-percent interest for one year. This package includes breakfast and airport transfers.

Use any Citibank Credit Card and book these packages through Asiatravel.com. Booking period is until Oct. 29. Email www.asiatravel.com/philippines.html, call 9182333 or 16.

Celebrity catalogue launched

The Star Magic 2013 Catalogue which features popular ABS-CBN talents is now available. Vicent Dalvit provided the backdrop for the featured celebrities. The Star Magic 2013 Catalogue is available in bookstores and Home Solutions branches in SM Megamall, Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place Manila, Landy Commercial, Festival Mall Alabang and Marquee Mall, Angeles, Pampanga.

Suntrust Treetop Villas:

An affordable new alternative for Makati-based professionals

The Makati CBD is a prime location in the metro, attracting dynamic professionals, leisure aficionados and young, upwardly mobile families everyday. It maintains distinct urban characteristics, networks, social establishments and institutions in close proximities. Modern conveniences, energy, entertainment and endless activity.

For all its advantages, Makati's fast-paced lifestyle can be exhausting and expensive. Today's homebuyers are increasingly demanding easy access to a vibrant Makati lifestyle in a more comfortable and livelihood setting. With this in mind, Suntrust Properties Inc., a subsidiary of property giant Megaworld Corporation, offers a brand-new residence that helps residents make the perfect balance between their work life and home life.

Suntrust Treetop Villas, strategically located along Kamuning Street in Mandaluyong City, is near the Makati-Mandaluyong Bridge, putting the Makati CBD only 10 minutes away. Residents move into a district in close to the CBD or commute via public transport. For those who want to have an executive workspace, are eco-friendly, live in their destination, the family is an efficient transport option. The Kalayaan station along the Pasig-Makati-Bonifacio Shuttle is only a short stroll away from the property.

Aside from being close to key marketplaces in Makati, Suntrust Treetop Villas is near first-rate learning institutions such as St. Paul College, Ateneo Graduate School of Business, Ateneo Institute of Technology and the Asian Institute of Management. From this enclave, upscale shopping malls such as Greenhills, Power Plant Mall, Glorietta, Greenbelt and SM Makati are only a few minutes away. Modern conveniences are well and therefore are just as accessible.

For those already based in Mandaluyong, Suntrust Treetop Villas is the perfect address. It is also key player in the city, and just minutes away from Makati, should residents need a weekend retreat to the CBD.

An unbeatable location is not the only thing going for the project. Suntrust Treetop Villas, like its name suggests, offers easy access to a nature-filled setting. Nearly 60 percent of the community is dedicated to landscaped areas, open spaces to unwind and relax, and activities for residents to enjoy. Suntrust Treetop Villas is a low-rise development, featuring 14 residential towers with 4 to 10 floors, designed in the resort style. 800 square meter recreational area featuring a clubhouse with fun spaces and landscaped and function areas. The second-level of the project is where the leisure and amenities areas are located for it is truly landscaped, and boasts lots of living areas as well as a children's playground.

Suntrust Properties believes that the project's unit-planned layout Suntrust Treetop Villas offers 800 residential units spread out across a 2.5Ha square meter land area, making for spacious, low-density community. The home interiors underscore this dynamic layout serving the practical needs of others, giving each unit ample and modern amenities.

The fast-paced lifestyle international city a major issue. Suntrust units offer access at the top of the public transport, shopping and entertainment areas present all around the community. What sets these condominium units apart is the ease they in the world. Whether in the east, and the Makati central in the west each Suntrust high-quality, modern finished amenities are available to take residents from their homes to the metropolis and back, all in the shortest time, the luxurious packing spaces in the gardens at the ultra-convenient of the project itself.

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Suntrust Properties Inc. is a pioneer brand, known for providing Filipinos with affordable residences. Its condominium projects in the metro include Suntrust Ardanza Gardens in Ortigas, Makati, Suntrust Parkcrest in Pasay, Manila, with features among which are a clubhouse, pool, function and leisure areas, gardens, illuminated in Suntrust City.

Aside from these, the company has subdivision communities in Cavite and Laguna. Properties include the Riverscapes in Biñan, Laguna, Regalia Park in San Isidro Heights in Cavite, Vista Daraitan Hills, Cainta, Rizal, and Vista Alta and The Meadows in Silang, Cavite, Rizal, and Terraces in Calamba.

Those interested in experiencing a lifestyle at their own home can visit the Suntrust Treetop Villas project site. Agents and brokers may call Suntrust at 632 3010 or fill in the inquiry section at www.ph for more information.

Take advantage of our Spend 2 Receive 2 deal. P5,000 food voucher when you spend P2,000 or more. Offer is good from August 1 to October 31, 2012.

Shoes for a cause

BEST FOOT FORWARD. Ben&Ben has formed a partnership with Mindoro Mission to help raise funds for the education of poor kids.

Ben&Ben (from here shortened to Ben&Ben) has teamed up with Mindoro Mission to renovate classroom facilities and provide school supplies and other study aids for children in need.

For every purchase of shoes, 3 percent of the total sales of Ben&Ben sneakers in the country will go directly to the children under the World Mindoro program.

"We are grateful to be part of Mindoro Mission's advocacy," said Ben&Ben's manager Jay Austria.

Ben&Ben brand manager "Our shoes now are no longer just fashionable staples; they have become important, life-changing tools with a purpose. On the one end, our customers also take an immense part in this significant endeavor. With each shoe purchased by them, they help to create a brighter future for Filipino kids in need of support."

In the past, Ben&Ben has supported Hilfe Para sa Liliwong Kalahian, Dra. Fe's Hope, Haribon Foundation's Mid-tropfy Tree planting and the United Nations's Feed Hunger, Free to Educate campaign.

Managed by Primer Group of Companies, Ben&Ben is the country's first and only restaurant-inspired shoe boutique.

For details, visit its fanpage on Facebook and Twitter.

BEN&BEN wants World Vision to help raise funds for needy children's education

Optimism and creativity of children characterize Fall fashion collection

GAP'S Shine On marketing campaign features kids who came together to paint a colorful mural on the campus of Daniel Webster Middle School in Los Angeles.

Ranging from one to 12 years old, the Shine On campaign features a ballerina, comedian, fashionista and anti-bullying advocate alongside the winners of Gap's sixth annual Casting Call contest. Brought together to showcase Gapkids and baby-Gap boy products for fall, the choices, chosen from 30 finalists for girls and Artist Stretch Denim for boys, show children are shining examples of style.

"Shine On exemplifies what it means to be bright by bringing together a group of exceptional children and empowering them to impact the world in a positive way," said Seth Berkman, Gap's global chief marketing officer. "By pairing our existing self-Instagram with a hand-selected group of children who are making a difference in the world, we're capturing the optimistic spirit of what it means to be a Gap kid."

The Shine On campaign features the four winners of the sixth annual North American Casting Call contest, who were chosen by residents of the United States and Canada from 28 finalists. The winners are Liam, age 11, from Watertown, Connecticut; Taylor, 8, from Rancho, California; Blue, 2, from Napa, California; and Robbie, 2, from Colleyville, Texas.

Additionally, the campaign features a group of artistic children such as Lily, 12, ballerina; Stella, 4, comedian; DJ Paloma, 8, DJ; Brandon, 10, violinist and humanitarian; and James, 11, anti-bullying activist.

WINNERS of Gap's 2012 Casting Call with Shine On youth advocates

New collection

The fall collection consists of an assortment of colored jeans for girls and boys, with prices starting at P1,650. Her girls, Jewel Iron Skinnies come in cotton basic hues like coral red, bell bone blue and electric jade, to be paired with matching knitted Jelled T-shirts, striped sweaters and denim jackets.

For boys, Artisan Stretch, designed to move for all-day play pairs with items like the denim Jelled jacket, military cardigan, colorblock shawl sweater and striped oxford.

At babyGap, the Fall denim collection includes the Ltd Bird Legging Jean and Skinny Flare for girls and the Straight for boys. Prices start at P1,650.

Additional collections for Fall include Hyest Pack for girls, offering a wear on classic styles from the ankle knit top, leopard swing trench, riding pant and printed bubble skirt for boys, the Cadet collection highlights include tailored stripe sweaters with patch detailing, mini gingham woven shirts, graphic T-shirts and puffer vests.

GapKids and babyGap are exclusively distributed in the Philippines by Casual Clothing Specialists Inc. (CCSI), a subsidiary of Rustans Specialties Inc., and available at SM Mall of Asia, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Glorietta 4, Bonifacio High Street, SM Megamall, Abreeza Mall in Davao, and soon to open in Robinsons, Magnolia.

LIFESTYLE Home&Entertaining

Now, even your furniture can be custom-made

Designer Niccolo Jose can create the perfect piece according to your physical needs and even your personality–he actually wants people 'to fall asleep in the furniture'

By Alee Y. Vergara

TWO YEARS after establishing his "design furniture" company, and a year after featuring his one-of-a-kind furniture pieces of recycled Philippine hardwood in a gallery in Makati, NOW he's

PARADE Schmidt with the mother-of-pearl Christmas star with tassel

Artisanship meets modern sensibilities in this company's signature pieces

By Margo C. Enriquez
Contributor

IN 2010, THEN first lady of France, Carla Bruni-Sarkozy opened the Shiseido Ginza, one of the world's largest furniture and accessories outlets, in Paris.

While touring the venue, she spotted lamps from the Philippines made of slender, black metal bases and black shade shades. They were adorned with silver-plated mother-of-pearl from Cagayan de Oro, accompanying scenes and cascading silken tassels. She then placed an order for 12 floor lamps.

"Very Parisian," says Marlon Gebrault, creative director of Divine Home and Accessories, a manufacturing and export company that specializes

LG Philippines releases **FIRST 5-INCH SCREEN ANDROID DEVICE** with **4:3 ASPECT RATIO DISPLAY** perfect for reading and streaming

LG Life's Good

MANILA, October 17, 2012 – In keeping with changing technological trends and consumer demands, LG once again steps up and rolls out its answer to the modern smartphone challenge. The Optimus Vu (pronounced as "view"), which initially debuted in Korea and Japan, is the product of continuous hardware development and customer insight analysis. With online consumption expanding to include visual web properties like Pinterest and Instagram, and the increasing demand for mobile entertainment on-the-go, LG has responded by creating a powerful smartphone that can deliver a viewing experience without compromise.

The Optimus Vu features the very first 5-inch IPS display with 4:3 aspect ratio, creating the perfect view for reading digital books and magazines, video streaming, and presenting PowerPoint slideshows. The generous screen size also makes QuickMemo—which has been upgraded—even more fun to use. The Optimus Vu essentially combines two highly sought-after devices—smartphones and tablets—into one highly productive, high-performance device for all communication and entertainment needs.

"To support such high demands, the Optimus Vu sports the powerful NVIDIA® Tegra® 3 quad-core processor, which still features the 1-PLUS-1™ functionality that allows for superior performance while keeping power usage efficient. The four primary cores are used for tasks that require heavy-duty processing like games and multitasking, while for simple tasks like music, calls, text, and email, only the 1th core is used.

All this power, combined with the generous 5-inch display and 4:3 aspect ratio, truly makes the Optimus Vu the perfect device to always have in your pocket, which it surprisingly fits into quite easily. For its Philippine roll-out, the Optimus Vu will come with a leather case (available in two colors, depending on the color of the unit purchased), the slidemotion stylus pen, and a 3,000 mAh portable power storage. To find out more about the LG Optimus Vu, visit lgoptimusvu.ph on facebook.

LG optimus Vu

Your Thoughts in Full View

(4.5 performance LCD)

Artisanship meets modern sensibilities in this company's signature pieces

Clients like Carla Bruni-Sarkozy love the whimsical lamps and pieces, which can incorporate everything from Philippine fabrics and shells to resin deer antlers

From page D1

in lamps, throw pillows, coasters and stationery. For the Manila Fame event this week, it is coming up with updated versions of its signature pieces such as lamp shades with traditional abel Iloko patterns.

Shells with tassels

Established 12 years ago with Richard Inman, Chito Vijandre and Ruby Toledo, Firma was a humble boutique in Malate known for artisanal fashion and home accessories and striking window displays. After a few years, they went their separate ways. Vijandre and Toledo established the multi-awarded Firma store in Greenbelt, Inman and Schmidt put up a separate company, Firma Home and Accessories with Inman as the president.

Because of its proximity to the Manila Peninsula, locals and foreign buyers would come to Firma in Malate to purchase pasalubong. One day, a Filipina buyer from Guam was fascinated by the conspicuous seams and tassels adorning the throw pillows, a signature design by Vijandre. She asked if Inman and Schmidt could customize her request—shells with long tassels—and produce a line. It marked the start of the export business.

In 2005, Firma deputy executive director Rhea Moreno visited Inman and Schmidt to join the Manila Fame fair. Still owning the market, they shared a booth with a handicrafts exporter. Firma Home and Accessories' initial offering consisted of shells with tassels and decorative tassels with pendants of mother-of-pearl. The products were a hit. However, buyers asked what could be done with the decorative tassels.

The following year, Firma Home and Accessories confidently set up its own booth, selling lamps with their signature tassels. They showed how decorative tassels could also brighten up knobs of cabinets and doors and be utilized as curtain tiebacks.

The company has since been exporting to Germany, France, Italy, the Caribbean, Australia and Latin America and some pairs of its 2006 Queen's Diamond Jubilee collection fetched him a be a consignee in the home section. One of Firma Home and Accessories' regular clients during Christmas is Lady Lucy Tang, the wife of Sir David Tang, founder of the luxury brand, Shanghai Tang.

Antlers from Slovenia

Each of the company's trademark looks has a story. One of its salable styles is the egg lamp that was introduced in 2006. "This was inspired by some snappy, early old lamp with an egg on top which I bought in Hong Kong in the early '90s. Credo. Wow, the seventh egg (counting), lacquered and plated in sterling silver, 14 karat gold or copper. It has become a classic," says Schmidt.

Some customers also accompany Firma lamps. Made of lacquered resin, they sit on top of the egg and have become a signature.

Then there's the Oriental look such as the cantharus and chrysanthemum designs. Demonic comic dragons are etched carved in medium of pearl and blackdip medium of pearl or laser-cut in silver- and gold-plated metal. Schmidt explains, "I have a close affinity with them, as my Asian roots are in Hong Kong. I lived there for five years before I finally moved to Manila in 1995. I met Richard in 1982 as we will celebrate our 30th anniversary next year in April. The dragon symbolizes our time in Hong Kong—a happy and prosperous one."

The ordinary called local snail gets a luxe feel with metallic plating. It becomes a pendant for the decorative tassel. "The ensaymada becomes a bookmark and was complimented. Its natural form, it is either one doorstop and boring, but when placed in silver or gold it becomes very precious," he says.

Schmidt asserts to his native roots by using deer antlers from Slovenia.

"My parents have a 40-hectare farm in Slovenia," says Schmidt. "It's a hobby farm as they are both retired. They grow their own vegetables and raise farm animals, conventional ones like cattle, sheep, chicken, goose and non-conventional animals like deer and muntjacs (wild sheep). The deer lose their antlers (the males only) every spring. We brought some back to Manila to test and their silver plated. They became part of a new lamp design. As the orders have become too big, we make the antlers in resin and then plate them. You can't tell the difference. Only one German client still insists on the real deal."

Eurasian aesthetics

Going ethnic, he uses abel Iloko finished patterns, characterized by whirling geometric patterns, on lamp shades. "These patterns originally were believed to ward off evil spirits. Now's look at it when you're in a trance," Schmidt says in jest.

"These fabrics are traditional patterns woven by Iloko artisans. They look like psychedelic fabrics from the '60s and create a modern appeal. Soon we will develop these traditional patterns with those artisans with our own twist and it will make more luxurious versions in linen and silk or shot with medium colors.

"Aside from lampshades, we will then native linen tote bags, pillows and placemats. Our corner persons' middle name is from Ilocos and he, in turn, will make sure that the elders will pass on their knowledge to the young. Indirectly, this is a livelihood project and heritage conservation."

One of Firma Home's salable fun pieces are the canvas throw pillows with designs culled from tarot of the 20th century zigarette packs.

"Richard's father, the late Rodolfo Inman, left us the largest collection of authentic Philippine cigarette and cigar box labels from the late 1800s to the present. The 1,200+ piece collection was started three generations ago by Richard's great grandfather. We scanned those images for the pillows and placemats and lately on double-sateens."

Firma Home is coming out with stationery using the cigarette pack patterns for the gift shop of an upcoming Makati hotel.

"We've developed a distinct style which is a symbiosis of European and Asian sensibilities," Schmidt says. "I was born in Germany but spent most of my adult life...22 years—in Asia. Richard and I tied the knot in Singapore last August."

"Most important is that we don't take ourselves too seriously. Our style is both eloquent, modern Asian with European influences, but it can also be whimsical and light."

Beauty salon 'offers' stem cell therapy

THE CONSUMER
Lizelle B. Bañido

WITH ALL the publicity about the "miraculous" effects of stem cell therapy, the Department of Health (DOH) should prepare itself for the possibility that the new procedure would be performed by unqualified, and completely clueless, people.

I passed a beauty parlor recently and saw a huge poster on its door announcing the "arrival" of stem cell therapy. I was instantly reminded of botched breast enhancements and nose "jobs" performed by some personnel who seemed to think it was as easy to learn complicated surgical procedures as it was to train to cut hair or do manicures and pedicures.

The DOH should start warning the public not to fall for those spiels of "before-and-after" that are available at giveaway rates.

'Modern lifestyle' problem

Experts have repeatedly talked about problems brought about by modern lifestyles. Changing diets and stress are two of the best known. Dr. Jaime G. Ignacio, section chief of gastroenterology at Veterans Hospital and head of the Digestive Malignancy Council of the Philippine Society of Gastroenterology, said constipation could be one of the consequences of the combination of these two factors.

Speaking at an event hosted by Boehringer Ingelheim, maker of Dulcolax (generic name Bisacodyl), a stimulant for constipation relief, Ignacio, who, as a gastroenterologist is a specialist in digestive system disorders, defined the problem as having fewer than three bowel movements in a week. Gastrointestinal tract from three times a week to three times a day!

He said constipation itself was not a disease but it could sometimes be a symptom of something serious. His colorectal cancer. But he said about 95 percent of cases were "acute"—occurring suddenly and lasting for only a short period—resulting from some sudden lifestyle or hormonal changes, the taking of medications, lack of exercise, etc.

Ignacio said acute was easy to treat, with products like Dulcolax to solve the problem. But, if left unattended, acute constipation could lead to a chronic or long-term condition, which was the more worrisome, and would need medical attention.

He said constipation should be treated as soon as the problem had lasted for four or more days.

"Constipation is part of modern living. Like other diseased processes in the fast, fade and offensive areas [available 24/7/365]," Ignacio revealed.

Dr. Dalmar I. Sison-Dalisay, head of the medical department of Boehringer Ingelheim Philippines said Dulcolax was effective because of its "comfort coating." This meant that its active ingredients were released only in the colon, and not in the stomach or "it is effective at the site where it can have the most impact in easing the problem."

Dr. Sison said Dulcolax, which is available in tablet, suppository and syrup, was the "most prescribed laxative in the Philippines" and the "number one in the world."

For small spaces

The Home Development Mutual Fund, aka Pag-ibig, inaugurated its first mall-based satellite center in Robinsons Galleria's Limited Place Center, Level 1. It will provide such services as membership registration, online verification and e-transfer of records.

Prospective or existing Pag-ibig members can now also go to mall-based centers at Robinsons Place Manila, Robinsons Metro East, Robinsons Starmills, Robinsons Novaliches, Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place Iloilo Center, Robinsons Bacolod's Pueblo Grande and Robinsons Cagayan (Tuburan).

The malls are usually accessible by different kinds of public transportation, having Pag-ibig centers in these places will certainly be a great convenience to members.

Send letters to the Consumer, Lifestyle Section, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 1000 Chino Roces Ave. ext. Alexandra and Esguerra Sts., 3200 Makati City; fax 897-8793/94; or e-mail lbanido@inquirer.com.ph.

...wings on pewter dining sets in the...ation pendant lamps. He also painted gardens on the side.

"There's enough hardwood to go by," Jose said. "We don't stop scavenging. Some clients would even offer their second cities saving up for work. I appreciate the gesture, but I have to see the wood first. It has to be hardwood and recycled."

And even if the hardwood was harvested a long time ago, it's illegal to keep a solid slab. Jose would rather stores chew of such wood and make do with what's available.

"My philosophy in designing is still as every thing I do in life has always been the same," he said. "Don't love what you need. Need what you love."

Now, even your furniture can be custom-made

From page D1

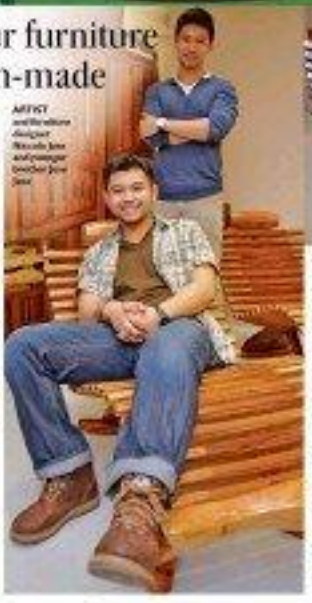
artist and furniture designer Nicolo Jose has expanded his art by offering the public designer doors, handrails and even waterproof wooden sinks.

"Over the past year, I've realized that there's a clientele for customized interiors," said the 126-educated Jose. "We're adapting to it in a big way by giving people what they want. We've started with doors like this. There are door makers out there, but they don't use solid hardwood."

Dubbed as Studio 10-10 (short for October 10, which also happens to be Jose's birthday), the family-owned gallery located at Lot Design Plaza on N. Garcia Street (formerly Regency) opened a little over a year ago. Jose's younger brother Jose Jose is his business manager.

Jose, who just turned 25, still continues to make unique furniture pieces, especially statement chairs, even while he expands the company's menu of services.

To mark Studio 10-10's first year, the establishment has unveiled his new furniture collection called "Contrapposto."



Not one-size-fits-all

Like his earlier pieces, Jose's latest offerings are fashioned from various pieces of hardwood. But they're not rigid, one-size-fits-all reclining chairs. On the contrary, each piece conforms to a particular client's measurements and movements.

"Like, that chair is too small for you," he said, as the reporter eased out of his reclining creations on for size. "That one over there is more apt for your height."

Since they're made to measure pieces, not a few people may find them uncomfortable to use. Well, you don't wear a suit or gown that's one or two sizes smaller so why would you sit or lie on a chair built for a smaller or bigger person?

By also giving his designer chairs made of various wooden components, weight loss, the artist also has his client's comfort in mind.

Since they follow your body's movements, these chairs aren't just meant to be sat on. They like double as day beds for those afternoon siestas during summer.

And since they're by from cheap, Jose's pieces appeal to more mature and established clients. His "Contrapposto" collection, for instance, could set you back by as much as P130,000-P170,000 apiece.

"This new collection is inspired by a person's posture even if that person doesn't smoked," Jose said. "Every piece is unbalanced because we want people to fall asleep in the furniture."

Sensual and whimsical touches are still evident in his latest creations. Some pieces included cut of the human skeleton, a particular rocking chair is adorned with a pair of wheels inspired by the clothes, and even comes with two horse figures that adorn the chair's front base.

"I want to do something that will shut, bring me," said Jose. "Not intrinsic, I'm open to doing something that's long-shot. If you're born in the year of the Dragon, I can make you a chair with dragon figures. We can customize the chair to suit not only the person's size, but also his or her personality and background."

Attention to detail

Jose also prior for down the same thought and attention to detail. Everything about it is the handcrafted and partly based on the client's specs and inputs. In fact, in long-shot, "25 percent of your house is the chair," he said.

"A chair is responsible for the flow of energy in your house. It's something you use and then every day. It's all about security and protection. You would always need a door more than you would need a chair," Jose added.

To date, he has done four dozen chairs he and his team scanned allowing the service in Asia. The first one, a huge double door for a house in one of Manila's exclusive villages, became the talk of the entire neighborhood.

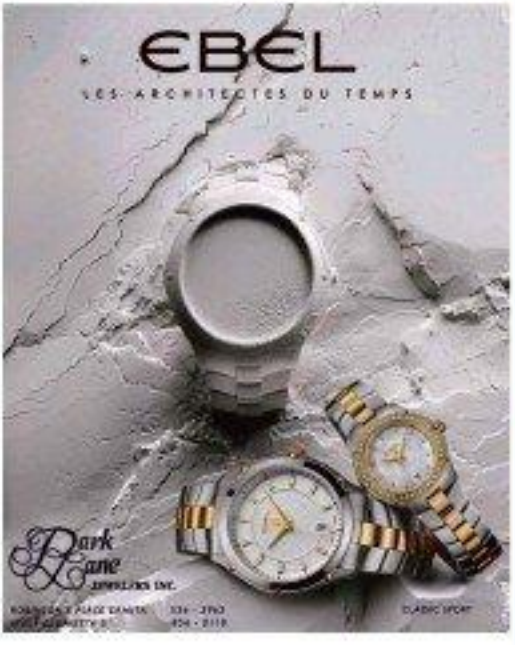
"It's not any secondary to find a door made of steel and still hardwood," said Jose, "although it's made from recycled wood. I try to make it look like a solid piece based on the design. Like our chairs, our doors look new, smooth, fluid, curved and rich-looking."

After finishing environmental studies and studio art in Lewis & Clark College in Portland, Oregon, Jose returned home in 2010 to establish his design company with a huge workshop in Lipa, Batangas. He has more than a dozen people, some of them building artists, working under him to help realize his vision.

Most of the new Philippine hardwood he uses comes from his father's personal collection. His dad, a carpenter and mechanical engineer, built his collection of rare and premium-cut wood such as narra, kamagong, mahogany and molave over the decades.

Jose imbibed his old man's passion for these materials, and later took this interest to the next level by learning how to design and transform them into functional works of art.

While studying in the US, he worked as a



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STYLISH shops for discriminating shoppers

PARIS HILTON's bags and accessories can be found only at Robinsons Place Manila

ROBINSONS Land Corporation group property head Cielito J. Bolí

Trendy and friendly, Manila mall is both shopper's–and tourist's–paradise

By Joy Rojas
Lifestyle Reporter

AT 10 A.M., a huge crowd has already gathered at the Midtown Atrium entrance of Robinsons Place Manila. It's a typical mall sight, but when you consider that this is a Tuesday morning, it says a lot about the shopping scene that this opened its doors in 1997.

Citing how the margin between weekday and weekend shoppers is "very minimal," Cielito J. Bolí, group property manager of Robinsons Land Corporation, says Robinsons Place Manila "is blessed to be known as a weekday and weekend mall."

Its strategic location certainly contributes to the high volume of guests every day. Situated between M. Adriatico Street and Pedro Gil, Ermita, Robinsons Place Manila is a stone's throw away from top schools like the University of the Philippines-Manila, Philippine Christian University and Philippine Women's University.

The Supreme Court, Department of Justice, and other key government offices are also just a walking distance from the mall. And it's the closest shopping complex to high-end hotels such as Pan Pacific, Hyatt, Manila Diamond and Manila Hotel.

But if discriminating shoppers—including those, Bolí is told, from Makati, where malls are aplenty—insist on flocking to this one, it's because of its vast variety of shops, a selection that just got even bigger with the addition of some 20-30 international brands (more are coming soon). Now matching the Midtown Atrium Wing, the recently renovated Padre Burgos Wing is home to trendy tenants such as Tecnisco, Call It Spring, Roxy, Protocol, Regatta, Kiosk World Food Court.

Paris Hilton's bags and accessories are found only here, and Bolí informs me that popular Australian clothing store Cotton On will be launched soon.

With over 700 local and international tenants and counting, Robinsons Place Manila affords the shopper an extremely pleasant shopping experience. Wide corridors allow you to go about your business in a strolling pace. And at the 4th level Atrium Wing, all four floors overlook a large, bright, open space at the ground level, an activity area that doubles as "breathing room" for guests with a case of shopping overload.

Besides its reputation as a trendy mall, Robinsons Place Manila is very tourist-friendly. Since January 2012, a partnership with travel agencies has allowed the shopping center to play host to foreign guests. Maximizing its massive floor area, the mall is the ultimate tourist destination: It has an endless array of food choices, a cultural dance troupe that performs every Tuesday afternoon, and kiosks selling flimsy souvenirs. A ripe list for photo-op purposes is a big hit among visitors, especially foreign tourists.

Manageress, however, is the mall's greatest resource. When a group of over 600 Chinese nationals dropped by for the day, office personnel donned Filipiniana attire and made themselves available to assist their special guests every need. Bolí says she was later told that this was the first time a mall had ever pulled out all the stops for tourists.

"It's a team effort," Bolí says, beaming. "It gives our guests something to look forward to."

FOLK DANCERS perform for shoppers.

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It's perfect for Oriental-themed parties

Anton Barreiro and Maricon Lopa

DO-IT-YOURSELF

ANGEL Locsin's smile sparkles as happily at the holiday lanterns in ABS-CBN's Christmas station ID, which premieres tonight.

ENTERTAINMENT

Lito Erwin G. Nilario

No suitors for perky star until sibling graduates

PERKY Bea can't entertain suitors because of family responsibilities. PS shows love in order to focus on her career.

A lot of people rely on PS, including a sibling who is studying... Onward! Fortunately this one is graduating soon. Unfortunately this academic sibling wants to take up a master's course. Does this mean that PS will be investing for two more years at least?

On the bright side, maybe PS should be grateful that the considerate sibling didn't take up medicine or law. There again,

MORE STORIES E2

Join Sun Cellular and BlackBerry's Fun in the Sun video contest and win an all-expense paid international trip with your friends

Love your Sun-powered BlackBerry® to the fullest? Make it official in a video, upload it on www.sunblackberry.com.ph>, and if your video gets picked, you and your friends might just be on the next flight to Singapore, Hong Kong or Thailand!

As a pre-Christmas treat, Sun Cellular has partnered with BlackBerry to launch a make-your-own-video contest dubbed 'Fun in the Sun' encouraging the public to come up with the most original, fun and creative music video sharing what they like about their Sun-powered BlackBerry smartphones and why they have most fun under the Sun. The three best videos will be awarded all-expense paid trips for two. Grand prize is a Singapore trip with Universal Studios tour. 2nd prize is a Hong Kong trip with Disneyland tour. 3rd prize is a Bangkok, Thailand trip.

The contest is in line with Sun Cellular and BlackBerry's recently released 'We Can Do Anything' music video featuring young band Never the Strangers and the network's endorser Maja Salvador. The music video is a virtual nod to the popularity of Sun BlackBerry postpaid plans in the country that combine affordability and functionality in one complete package.

Some of the popular plans offered are Sun BlackBerry Plan 999 with free BlackBerry® Curve™ 9320 or BlackBerry® Curve™ 9380 along with a string of unlimited services - Sun calls and texts, social networking, plum e-mail, BBM, instant messaging, BlackBerry browsing and mobile Internet, and Sun BlackBerry Social Plan 699 which includes a free BlackBerry® Curve™ 9220, perfect for unlimited Sun calls and texts, unlimited BBM™ (BlackBerry® Messenger), unlimited Facebook, unlimited Twitter and unlimited BlackBerry browsing.

To join Sun Cellular and BlackBerry's Fun in the Sun video contest, simply take out your video cams and create a spin-off of the official music video making sure to creatively incorporate all Sun BlackBerry features such as unlimited Sun calls and texts, BBM, mobile Internet and social networking. For more information, visit <www.sunblackberry.com.ph>. Meanwhile, Sun BlackBerry video booths are also set up in selected areas where participants can make an on-the-spot video entry.

Entries will be judged based on the following criteria: 70% number of Likes and Shares on <www.sunblackberry.com.ph>, 30% adherence to the Sun and BlackBerry specifications and 30% creativity.

Last day of submission of video entries is on November 30, 2012 at 11:59 PM. Winners will be announced on December 10, 2012.

So gather your friends, take out your video cameras and get your passports ready because you might just be on the next flight to Singapore, Hong Kong or Thailand!

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GARFIELD BY JIM DAVIS

A. UPIN BY JES MARIA

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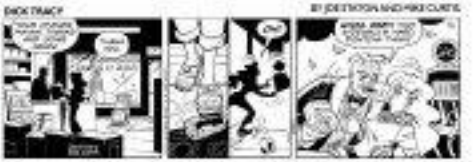
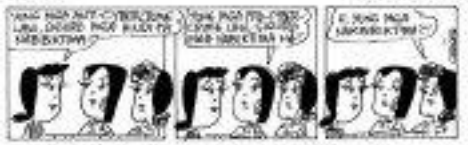
DICK TRACY BY JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS



LOVE MOTS BY ELIZABETH HONGALO



BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

SEN BY CHARLES SHELTON

HUTTS BY PATRICK MCDONNELL

SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY

DUSTIN BY STEVE KELLEY AND JEFF PARKER

TUKOD BY MARA CELI

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCES DRAKE

TAU (April 20 to May 20) Be prepared to act more than talking when dealing with others today because they'll be more interested in what you do than what you say. Remember, actions speak louder than words.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) This is the luckiest summer day of your life. Double-check everything you're doing, and assume nothing. Expect disrepairs and delays. Just go with the flow.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) This is an incredibly creative day for you! It's also a terrific day for you to make changes that will help you in the future. Be flexible and think outside the box.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) Family discussions will be heated and unpleasant today, because people are willing to let their pasts affect their futures. Don't allow new misfortunes to get the better of you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) You likely will be full of energy today. You're not sure how to channel it, so you don't worry. Instead, embrace whatever feel like doing.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) This is a poor day to make important financial decisions. It's also overwhelmingly possible to make major purchases. Wait until tomorrow.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You're a magnet for positive things today, and not even you can stop them. Don't worry about this, because it's completely beneficial and will be good for you. And you actually deserve it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) It's a really sensational day for you, and visions of wonderful things, which is why you might find it difficult to concentrate on anything for more than one minute. Get over it. You have a wonderful future! Seriously!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) You're working in one kind of group situation, and you're not sure if you're in the right place. Don't worry. You're in the right place, and you're working on a group that's doing important work. Just listen to what others have to say. Of course, that's a challenge.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) Challenge authority figures — parents, bosses, teachers, cops and the police — and you'll be in for a world of trouble. Don't do it. Instead, be nice to authority figures. You'll be glad you did.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) This is a wonderful day to study mystical subjects and explore new, unusual concepts. You find it easy to think outside the box.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Avoid important decisions regarding inheritances, estates, taxes, bills and debts. This is a good day to make those kinds of judgments. Don't succeed at anything else.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Be prepared to act more than talking when dealing with others today because they'll be more interested in what you do than what you say. Remember, actions speak louder than words. Be active instead of passive.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) This is the luckiest summer day of your life. Double-check everything you're doing, and assume nothing. Expect disrepairs and delays. Just go with the flow.

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CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Concepts Sudoku — By Dave Ferrer

			7					
	3		4		2		9	
		8				5		
			9		1			
2			3	8	6		4	9
3	1			5		6	2	
	8	1		9	5	7		
			2	4				
				1				

Difficulty Level: ★★★

Answers to previous puzzle:

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1. Cried softly (Baroness)
5. Cheerless (Baroness)
10. Leisurely gymnast
11. Words
12. Way of walking
13. Blunder
14. Affirmation
15. Jacket (Baroness)
16. Ancient metalsmiths
17. Make (Baroness)
18. Yellow flower (Baroness)
19. Wrestle (Baroness)
20. Wheel-like ornament (Baroness)
21. Hardware holder
22. Wrestling moves, not short
23. Intestine (Baroness)
24. Kitchen (Baroness)
25. Telegraphic reports
26. Boulder
27. Bandleader Ozzie
28. Ancient Indian
29. Wrestling moves, not short
30. Intestine (Baroness)
31. Kitchen (Baroness)
32. Telegraphic reports
33. Boulder
34. Bandleader Ozzie
35. Ancient Indian
36. Wrestling moves, not short
37. Intestine (Baroness)
38. Kitchen (Baroness)
39. Telegraphic reports
40. Boulder
41. Bandleader Ozzie
42. Ancient Indian
43. Wrestling moves, not short
44. Intestine (Baroness)
45. Kitchen (Baroness)
46. Telegraphic reports
47. Boulder
48. Bandleader Ozzie
49. Ancient Indian
50. Wrestling moves, not short
51. Intestine (Baroness)
52. Kitchen (Baroness)
53. Telegraphic reports
54. Boulder
55. Bandleader Ozzie
56. Ancient Indian
57. Wrestling moves, not short
58. Intestine (Baroness)
59. Kitchen (Baroness)
60. Telegraphic reports
61. Boulder
62. Bandleader Ozzie
63. Ancient Indian
64. Wrestling moves, not short
65. Intestine (Baroness)
66. Kitchen (Baroness)
67. Telegraphic reports
68. Boulder
69. Bandleader Ozzie
70. Ancient Indian
71. Wrestling moves, not short
72. Intestine (Baroness)
73. Kitchen (Baroness)
74. Telegraphic reports
75. Boulder
76. Bandleader Ozzie
77. Ancient Indian
78. Wrestling moves, not short
79. Intestine (Baroness)
80. Kitchen (Baroness)
81. Telegraphic reports
82. Boulder
83. Bandleader Ozzie
84. Ancient Indian
85. Wrestling moves, not short
86. Intestine (Baroness)
87. Kitchen (Baroness)
88. Telegraphic reports
89. Boulder
90. Bandleader Ozzie
91. Ancient Indian
92. Wrestling moves, not short
93. Intestine (Baroness)
94. Kitchen (Baroness)
95. Telegraphic reports
96. Boulder
97. Bandleader Ozzie
98. Ancient Indian
99. Wrestling moves, not short
100. Intestine (Baroness)
101. Kitchen (Baroness)
102. Telegraphic reports
103. Boulder
104. Bandleader Ozzie
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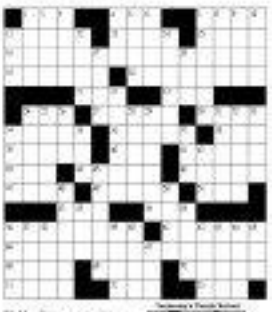


No suitors for perky star ...

From page E1

there's still such a thing as a dodoanic degree.

Reunited

The grapevine says Gorgeous Star is in talks with Sam and Bendy Bontjer/Castro.

But there's talk that GS wants to reunite with Fernando Poe Jr. and Jr. as a family.

Well, GS and FPJ were the perfect couple when they were together. Perhaps reuniting is familiar ground is just what GS needs right now...especially since she's in transition both the professional and personal fronts.

Crossing over

Another Talented Filipino has been invited as guest on this popular US TV show.

TF's (you) papers are ready, a source says. And we predict TF will create a stir over as worldwide fame—like other gifted Filipino artists who performed on the same program?

At least, TF was basically invited, unlike Charice Pempengco who reportedly "gate-crashed" the show and stalked the publicity for all it's worth.

Down and out

Dulce Ilustre had big plans. To his credit, DI was fearless and pursued his dreams. Enough it meant vanishing from the local scene for a while.

That was a costly mistake. DI's savings account depleted, and the pursuit led him nowhere.

DI is back to square one and trying to jump-start his career by taking on showbiz projects.

Sadly, a role said DI can't seem to come to the challenge. She is said to have taken over a documentary to pull off a sunday cinematic scene.

Reality bites back

Pundits predict that Cute Showcase reality shows are the world's reality talent awards.

Even fellow superstars have accepted the inevitability of CSS's triumph. But an insider doesn't think DI should sue because "he's arrogant."

During an interview, Oh was a trifle too cocky, the insider related. "If he said that, nothing beats a show his clan helped a lot. Nothing could be further from the truth."

Oh's only "consolation" is that he is in reliever who has been shuttled by critics for being inept. That's nothing to brag about.

Kapuso's Christmas

Gerald Anderson went on location in Nueva Campuestal in Malabon for the shoot of ABS-CBN's Christmas SID (yes, Inc. ID). Gerald was with members of the Philippine Coast Guard for his sequence.

Residents of the compound were delighted to see him, many rushing to "Pinay Big Brother" housemates. Female members of the community swooned the celebs' small hands.

Angel Locsin took time between takes to talk with Red Cross volunteers about her experiences during her recent volunteer work.

Zoe Zaldarriaga and Ely Quiroz, being fans of "Be Careful with My Heart's" Mayo and Set Chad, had their photo taken with the love team of their homerooms and

Skyland "Papa Dave" Yap on the SID shoot set.

Top of the Talk Shows

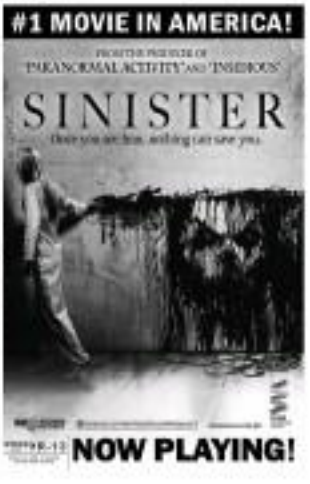
For those who missed last weekend's TV guidance (And why we are moved, if we are moved):

• Marc Abaya on the passing of his mom, critically acclaimed director Maribel Ilustre Abaya: "She was at peace. I was my mother days. "(Time/words Dave are but a few)

• Marc on his mom's legacy: "Lahat ng pelikula niya, may istasahi. Mare than a filmmaker, she considered herself a teacher." (Hey all other directors follow that path.)

• Marc Ramos, asked if she'd ready to do movie during rides: "Hindi ako na ma-dating, as long as nakikita sa character na may dahilan." (Shouldn't that always be the case?)

NEWSBYTES E2



No suitors for Perky Star until sibling graduates

ROSEH has a message for Mijoe.

From page B1

■ Maxene Magalona on rumored suitors Rene Fernandez: "Matanong muuna kung ba? Aren't singing close, so best friend." (Would your dads approve of this... friendship?)

■ Lorna Tolentino on her son Diether's brewing romance with Maxene: "Siguro in time namin sa sin yone' ito ha-ha!" (Ibat-ibat si LT, straight shooter.)

■ Dingdong Dantes, asked if rumors linking him to Isabelle Daza affected his relationship with Marian Rivera: "It's not an issue, it's not true. We always answer one another na another bored puro sa isa't isa." (In a project brewing in there?)

■ Marian on what she loves about Dingdong: "Ang maganda kay Dong, Asher boys, dyosa. Isama mo talaga siya sa imagination at pagsasa talaga yan ng pursuit para makuha ka. That's love!" (And that's how some guys cover their tracks. We're just saying...)

■ Joey de Leon touting "Starstuff" reboot Goh Sula drooling his birthday celebration: "Ilang meron akong gustong i-ligo sa Spongebong birthday ko, iisaw yon! Isunga lang!"... Siya pa maarte, kung maisusubong "ito" (Sino ba'ng kausap.)

■ Lolit on Joey's request: "Ayoko! Indegent Filipino ako!" (And here we plead the fifth.)

■ Bala Mae Quiroz, asked if she and Boy2 Quizon really had a romantic relationship: "Friends-friends pero lil na nag push. Parang MU lang. Yes, bayaw-bayaw!" (Sumasaya.)

■ Robin Padilla on including his daughter Kylie Padilla's role as Alber Aberasion in the movie, "Running Balikbay": "Siya ipinumilit ko sa Ampat (Alber) ko ang hindi mo problema, dragging problema mo lang ako-hagang pinrobleman ka ni Kylie." (Good job, Robin. You can keep an eye on him, too.)

■ Andi Eigenmann, asked if she's OK with Albie Casiño attending the birthday party of her daughter, Ellie: "Di ko na mare-relapse ako (hindi) apaw na mare-telo... pero if ever na gusto nila, I'm open to that because he's still Ellie's daddy." (Has he acknowledged her past to date?)

■ Jake Cuenca on his rumored romance with Lovi Poe: "Eh pa kami, Ambo mulayo po." (Bakit ang sumasa.)

■ Alex Medina on her ups with ex-boyfriend Derick Monasterio and his current girlfriend, Iza Muñoz: "Basta ma, kasi may mga usual sabi, eh. Alam niyo 'yung... feeling na pinagkakaisipan ka nang sarili ko na nang pinagsasabi ng mga tao. Basta ako, I'm happy. Ang importante happy ako." (Is it true that you're pregnant?)

SCENES in ABS-CBN's Christmas station ID were inspired by real-life events, according to Robert Labayen, head of Creative Communications Management. For instance, actor Gerald Anderson, in top photo with a Philippine Coast Guard crew, is known for going on rescue missions during floods. Above: Jodi Sta. Maria, Zia Quizon, Zoe Zoe Padilla and Richard Yap. Theme of the SID is "Lamilmang ang Pilipinas sa Kwento ng Pasko" and contestants in the joint.

'Peanuts' makes it to the big screen

AFTER two years of discussions, 20th Century Fox Animation and Blue Sky Studios have acquired the rights to make a feature film based on the late Charles Schulz's iconic "Peanuts" franchise.

The yet-untitled animated film will be released on Nov. 25, 2015, in time for the 65th anniversary of the comic strip and the 50th anniversary of the TV special, "A Charlie Brown Christmas."

"Peanuts" is regarded as one of the most popular comic strips of all time, read every day by 350-million people in 75 countries.

Steve Martino will direct the "Peanuts" feature. The screenplay is by Craig Schulz and the writing team of Bryan Schulz and Cornelius Uliano.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Charice gets rave reviews for H'wood film role

By Allan Policarpio
Entertainment

NYEH the recent US release of her Hollywood film "Mee Comes the Bride," Filipino singer Charice has added yet another milestone to her career as an international artist.

Charice got positive feedback for her role as Malia de la Cruz—a much prestige in the movie-comedy film that opened on Dec. 12.

Directed by Frank Coraci and released by lead stars Kevin James and Eddie Hayek, the film is about James' character Jerry Vess, a 42-year-old biology teacher feared to moonlight as a ruthless martial arts fighter to raise money for his school's ailing music program.

In a review published on his website (www.thomasmbrown.com), Online Film Critics Society member Thomas Brown commended Charice's acting: "She brings such honesty and emotion to the screen that one can't help but care about her.... Charice is a star in the making with a smile that could light up a New York City blackout."

David Germain of The Associated Press said Charice "adds adorability as cutlight and earnest student."

"Here Comes" writers and producer Jamie, who is Charice's teacher in the film, raved about the petite Pinay's performance of Neil Diamond's "Holly Holy" he told Crosswalk FM station Jammin' 101.5 during the red carpet premiere in Denver: "My girl Charice rocks in. She's unbelievable, you'll see."

Stressful auditions

In an interview aired on the Q96 radio show, "The Coach," on Oct. 10, Charice said her "Here Comes" shot was her "first-ever big role."

The "I Swim Philippines" judge related how nervous she was during the auditions. "They suddenly gave me the ticket to Neil Diamond's 'Holly Holy' and I was like, 'What's this song? This is the end of me!'" Luckily Charice had overcome herself by the time she met the film director. "I did it, they were truly moved."

Asked how it felt, working with big stars like James and Hayek, Charice said: "I didn't expect them to be that nice... and so sweet."

The 20-year-old singer-actress is no stranger to the limelight. She appeared in three episodes of the second season of the hit TV musical "Glee," and landed a cameo singing role in the 2009 film "Hello and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel."

Bracingly different topics in '60 Minutes'

VIEWFINDER
Sandra
U. Zarate

THE BEST thing that happened to me this month was my discovery last Oct. 7 that the iconic documentary program "60 Minutes" is now being shown on the TV5 channel. Talk about Christmas in October. The show focused on two amazingly different topics: the dangers facing American troops in Afghanistan, and Arnold Schwarzenegger's new autobiography.

The first feature was chilling to watch because it showed, in graphic detail, the role that US soldiers take on a daily basis to keep the peace in that embattled land.

What made these situations even more dangerous was the fact that the Taliban often come from within. From the very people the American troops were training to take over the war and peace efforts in Afghanistan in less than two years' time!

What made the feature a definitive take on the issue was the fact that the production was able to interview no less than the top American general in charge here, John Allen. So, viewers got a truly "insider" report —which was made even more gripping by the American commander's readiness to share, not just the hard facts, but also his own feelings about the risks he was taking in being so hands-on.

He summed up the supreme irony of the situation when he revealed that, even as his men were training their Afghan counterparts, a US soldier would have a gun trained on them, just in

ARNOLD Schwarzenegger

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SM BACOLOD
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SM BATANGAS
SM CALAMBA
SM CLARK
SM DASMARIÑAS
SM LIPA
SM LUCENA
SM MARILAO
SM MASINAG
SM MEXICO
SM OLONGAPO
SM PAMPANGA
SM ROSALES
SM ROSARIO
SM SAN FERNANDO
SM SAN PABLO
SM STA. ROSA
SM TARLAC

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Bracingly different ...

Pressagent!

ness an insider smack was being severely planned!

As for the show's interview with Arnold Schwarzenegger, it was made special by the actor-politician's candid responses to the sometimes blunt and even harsh questions thrown his way by the interviewer (**Lesley Stahl**), who belonged to the "hard talk" school of broadcast journalism.

Before tossing in on Schwarzenegger's divorce from **Maria Shriver** after his many infidelities, the production established the right chronological context by showing old photos and video footage of his childhood and teenage years.

Schwarzenegger has trimmed down a lot since his champion bodybuilding years, so it was a shock to view old photos of him looking so huge, all bulked up in gigantic proportions, a veritable Incredible Hulk without the capacious green coloration!

It was officially established that the future actor came from an exceedingly poor family and lived a routinely grim future—until he used bodybuilding as his ticket to success.

The comparison worked so well for him that it also led to some students by way of "Conan the Barbarian"—and, even more memorably, to a political career that peaked when, against all odds and expectations, he became the "Governator" of the state of California!

All that went down the drain, however, especially when the actor-politician was caught with his pants down, and belatedly identified as the father of his family's housekeeper!

Stunned and deeply hurt, his wife Maria dropped him like a hot potato, and he suddenly became bad news in the political realm. Only in the world of show biz has he ever continued to shine...in fits and spurts. Despite all his personal woes, he has five new movies in various stages of production.

But, at 65, Schwarzenegger is aware that the display zest he used to be, so I hope that he's learned from his humbling experience, and will be kinder to himself—and others—from here on in!

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ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

NEWPORT CINEMAS

1 Looper 10:00am • 11:20am • 1:30pm • 3:10pm • 4:50pm • 6:40pm • 8:20pm • 11:30pm

2 Taken 2 9:10am • 11:30am • 1:50pm • Alex Cross 1:30pm • 4:20pm • 6:50pm • 9:30pm • 12:00mn

3 Argo 9:10am • 11:40am • 2:10pm • 4:40pm • 7:10pm • 9:40pm • 12:30mn

4 Tiktik: Aswang Chronicles

This Guy's In Love with you Mare

RESORTWORLD CINEMAS

1 Tiktik: Aswang Chronicles

2 Alex Cross 3D

3 This Guy's In Love with you Mare

4 Argo

5 Looper

6 Tiktik: Aswang Chronicles

7 Taken 2 3D

8 Looper

Lucky Chinatown CINEMAS

1 Tiktik: Aswang Chronicles 10:20am • 12:40pm • 3:00pm • 5:20pm • 7:40pm • 10:00pm

2 Argo 2D 10:00am • 12:20pm • 2:40pm • 5:00pm • 7:20pm • 9:40pm

Looper 2D 5:40pm • 7:40pm • 10:00pm

Bait 2D 10:40am • 12:20pm • 2:30pm

3 Alex Cross 2D 5:00pm • 7:20pm • 9:40pm

4 This Guy's In Love with you Mare 10:30am • 12:50pm • 3:00pm • 5:20pm • 7:50pm • 10:00pm

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LOOPER

TAKEN 2

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MOVIE TIME

GLORIETTA 4

1: TIKTIK: THE ASWANG CHRONICLES (2D)
12:00, 2:10, 5:20, 7:40, 9:50 AM

2: BAIT (2D)
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 6:50, 9:20 AM

3: LOOPER
11:00, 1:30, 4:10, 6:50, 9:10, 11:30 AM

4: SHAUN OF THE DEAD IN THE TOWN (VIVID)
10:40, 12:50 and 4:10, 7:10, 9:20 AM

5: ARGO
11:00, 2:10, 4:40, 7:20, 9:40 PM

6: THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH U MARE
10:00, 12:10, 2:40, 7:40, 9:50 PM

7: ALEX CROSS
1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:40 PM

GREENBELT 1

1: TIKTIK: THE ASWANG CHRONICLES
1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8:10 PM

2: THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH U MARE
2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00 PM

GREENBELT 3

1: LOOPER
1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00, 11:00 AM

2: ARGO
1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 8:00, 11:10 PM

3: ALEX CROSS
2:30, 4:50, 6:50, 8:50, 11:00 PM

4: THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH U MARE
1:10, 3:30, 5:40, 8:10, 10:30 PM

5: TAKEN 2
1:40, 4:00, 6:10, 8:30, 10:50 PM

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1: LOOPER
2:10, 4:30, 6:30, 8:40, 10:40 PM

2: THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH U MARE
12:10, 2:00, 3:50, 5:50, 7:50, 9:50 PM

3: BAIT (3D)
3:30, 4:40, 6:20, 8:00 PM

4: ALEX CROSS
2:30, 4:50, 6:50, 8:40, 10:40 PM

5: ARGO
12:00, 2:00, 3:50, 5:50, 8:10, 10:40 PM

ALABANG CENTER CINEMA

1: LOOPER
1:00, 3:20, 4:50, 6:50, 8:40, 7:30, 9:50 PM

2: ARGO
12:00, 2:00, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20 PM

3: ALEX CROSS
1:40, 3:50, 5:50, 7:50, 9:50 PM

4: THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH U MARE
1:00, 3:10, 5:10, 7:20, 9:20 PM

MARIKINA

1: ARGO
12:10, 2:10, 4:20, 6:30, 9:10 PM

2: TIKTIK: THE ASWANG CHRONICLES
1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00 PM

3: LOOPER
1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30 PM

4: THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH U MARE
12:10, 2:30, 4:40, 7:00, 9:10 PM

MARKET! MARKET!

1: THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH U MARE
12:00, 2:10, 4:20, 6:30, 9:00 PM

2: BAIT (3D)
12:10, 2:30, 4:40, 6:50, 9:00 PM

3: ALEX CROSS
12:00, 2:30, 4:40, 6:50, 9:00 PM

4: TIKTIK: THE ASWANG CHRONICLES (3D)
12:30, 2:50, 5:00, 7:10, 9:20 PM

5: LOOPER
1:30, 3:50, 5:50, 7:10, 9:30 PM

6: ARGO
1:30, 4:00, 6:10, 9:00 PM

7: TAKEN 2
12:30, 2:30, 5:00, 7:00, 9:10 PM

TRINOMA

1: TIKTIK: THE ASWANG CHRONICLES
1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00 PM

2: ARGO
11:30, 2:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30 PM

3: LOOPER (3D)
11:00, 2:00, 4:30, 6:40, 8:30, 10:30 PM

4: BAIT (3D)
1:40, 3:45, 5:45, 7:45, 9:45 PM

5: TAKEN 2 (FRIDAY) 1, 10, 7 PM
1:40, 3:45, 5:45 PM (SAT & SUN), 9:30, 10:50 PM

6: ALEX CROSS
1:00, 3:00, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00 PM

7: THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH U MARE
12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00 PM

ABREEZA

1: LOOPER (3D)
11:30, 2:10, 4:40, 7:00, 9:30, 2nd

2: ARGO
12:00, 2:00, 4:30, 7:20, 9:40 2nd

3: THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH U MARE
12:10, 2:30, 4:40, 7:00, 9:10 2nd

4: ALEX CROSS
12:40, 2:40, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00 2nd

HARBOR POINT

1: ARGO
1:40, 4:30, 6:40, 9:10 PM

2: TIKTIK: THE ASWANG CHRONICLES
2:00, 4:15, 6:30, 8:40 PM

3: LOOPER
1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:10, 9:30 PM

4: THIS GUY'S IN LOVE WITH U MARE
12:00, 2:40, 5:00, 7:10, 9:30 PM

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October 19-21 Activity Center

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Activity Center Ground Floor
October 19-21 Activity Center

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
PPC Express Lobby
October 19-20 Activity Center

ALABANG CENTER CINEMA
Activity Center
October 19-21 Activity Center

MARIKINA
Olympic Center
October 17-20 Activity Center

TRINOMA
Activity Center
October 19-21 Activity Center

MARQUEE
ACLC 2/F Bldg
October 17 Activity Center

ABREEZA
Activity Center
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HARBOR POINT
Activity Center
October 19-21 Activity Center

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Growing up with America

By Pocholo Concepcion

AMERICA (from left): Danny Bunnell and Gerry Beckley

SOME things remain etched in memory: those first times we watched the folk-rock band America in 1982 at the Big Dome; the thrill of hearing the upbeat single, "You Can Do Magic," from the band's then newly released album, "View From the Ground"; the witty humor of Homer's, who opened the concert; the roar of being suffocated in the crowd; packed like sardines; exalted down the exit from the upper box seating.

Back in high school a few years earlier, the album "Hideaway" featuring Aurora's Coconut Tree" had provided the soundtrack to many summer afternoons—friends lining to debut the coarse lyrics in "Tin Man", "Where I say I'm spinning round, round, round, round/ Inside/ glass standing/ tube..."

Distinct intros

During a spiritual retreat, the song "All My Life" playedin classmates cried their hearts out. An embarrassing moment running out of breath as we sang "I Have Pride In Jesus" in many approximate keys.

Groobang America play live two more times in recent years provided the excitement of glancing the songs' titles on the abstract music chronicle "Wishin' Love." "Sister Golden Hair" (its opening riffs said to be inspired by George Harrison's "Mr. Tamb Lord"), "Western Highway" (whose energizing kinks were unexpected throughout most lockon's 2001 single "Somewhere in Call My Love").

SHOW TIME

There times, more by instinct as Lord's, when life seemed less stressful, evenings still ...relentless one is in a reflective mood, when friends get together on road trips.

We don't know if we'll feel the same (the other America performs tonight at Smart Araneta Coliseum. We were bothered the last time because many Bobbies, one of the founding members, accepted like he was having stand problems on the last few numbers.

What the heck, we'll be there just the same.

Other tonight, America performs on OUR SIDE the Philippines' John Denver and on Oct. 23 at the University of Baguio. All shows feature the band's platinum-[illegible]

Transfer not about TV ratings

LT says the bosses in top three networks are all her friends

By Marinel R. Cruz

"LET'S NOT ruin my good working relationships with executives of other networks because of this contract," said actress Lorna Tolentino on the denied transferring to GMA7 from TV5 alleged. Speculations of the latter's struggles with poor ratings.

"It's not true. The bosses in all of the three networks (including ABS-CBN) are my friends. This is not about viewership or the ratings game. There's a deeper reason behind it," Tolentino told the Inquirer shortly after she signed a two-year contract with the Kapuso network last week.

Former exec Tolentino's talent manager Lolit Solis, GMA president and COO Gilberto R. Duavit Jr., network chair and CEO Felipe L. Gozon and Entertainment TV vice president Lilybeth G. Rasonable were also present.

"I'm confirmed by this move," she actress said. "The truth is that GMA 7 offered work to me in a time when TV5 was still planning its programming."

"TV5 agreed to let me go. We had our share of the cards on the table. We never were troubled," pointed out Tolentino, who will still be seen on TV5 programs "Artista Academy" and "Third Eye" until this month.

Lorna was supposed to be a cast member of the upcoming "Hunter," which GMA 7 shotted to shoot because it contained "sensitive" topics. The show discusses lost and reuniting between a Christian soldier (Dingdong Dantes) and a young Muslim woman (Bidz Puddle). Tolentino will play Puddle's mother.

Tolentino said she was saddened by the network's decision to also cancel the show but understood why it had to do so.

"It would have been a good moment, a modern and interesting way to learn about Filipino culture and religion. I had imagined it to be educational. It could tell the youth about what's really happening to our countryside in the south," she said.

Tolentino added her former had promised her another project that was equally interesting.

Meanwhile, Tolentino and her son Raphael, is currently in the process of preserving the films of her late father Lamberto Avellana. He is working with Efren Isla to salvage them. He recalled that she was not an easy task.

Tolentino also related how excited she was to be a grandmother to Lyle Victoria, Raphi daughter with girlfriend Jessy.

She said "It's a different feeling. It's like I've become a young mom all over again. You [the] grandchild's nickname[s] looks so much like [my late dad and late grandmother]."

Tolentino added that if not during these times when she'd miss Baby the most. "I know that he's just around, guiding us. To cope with loneliness, I talk to him sometimes. I can still see him up there." I will ask him to guide me in all my decisions. This helps lessen the pain."

She said she had no interest in finding a new love. "My daughter will not approve of it. I feel so as if I'm already too old to date again. I just focus on taking care of myself, making sure I'm fresh for especially since I call them my children and I want to take care of," she pointed out.

Tolentino no recent- ly flew to Cebu to attend a fundday

LORNA Tolentino

DID YOU KNOW...

Nora, Sharon, Vilma drop in on the 'Academy'

THREE of the country's biggest female stars—Nora Aunor, Sharon Cuneta and Vilma Santos—are guests on the TV5 reality talent search "Artista Academy" this week.

Tonight, Star Magic Superstar, a Batangueña, visits the office of Batangas Governor Vilma Santos, who gives him a "belly dancing."

On Thursday, Sharon Cuneta gives all the "Artista" finalists some words of inspiration.

Lastly, Mother Ritaon, Mr. Aborsaon and Mich share the screen with their daughter in a short film to be shown on Saturday during the Live Show. Behind-the-scenes footage of the boys with Aunor will be aired on Friday.

"Artista Academy" airs weeknights at 9 p.m. and Saturdays at 8:30 p.m. on TV5.

BRUCE Willis in "Looper"

Opening Today

Tiktik: Aswang Chronicles

Directed by Erik Matti, stars Dingdong Dantes, Iza Pas, Janice de Belen, Joey Marquez, LJ Reyes, Ruffa Gutierrez

Happy go-lucky gay newsman at the Bisaya province to stop local superstitions get busted. The reunion is disrupted by the appearance of flesh-eating monsters. Matti explains, "I think is the first sound film the aswang bird makes."

Argo

Directed by Ben Affleck, stars Ben Affleck, John Goodman, Bryan Cranston, Alan Arkin, Taylor Schilling, Victor Garber

CIA agent attempts to rescue American diplomats in Iran by pretending to make a movie. Washington Post's Ann Hornaday: "Serious and substantive, an impressively ambitious and executed drama." Newsday's Rafer Guzmán: "Timely, topical and thoroughly entertaining."

Looper

Directed by Rian Johnson, stars Bruce Willis, Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Emily Blunt, Paul Dano, Piper Perabo, Jeff Daniels

An assassin is dispatched to kill his future self. Scott Pilgrim's Lee Lussenick: "Intelligent sci-fi popcorn movie with major brains."

Alex Cross

Directed by Rob Cohen, stars Tyler Perry, Matthew Fox, Carmen Ejogo, Jean Reno, Edwardo Ibeas, Cicely Tyson, Rachael Nichols

Police detective confronts the schemings of a killer who murdered his wife. Contentmeister.media.com remarks: "Scary and violent with hit-the-sack action scenes."

V/H/S

Directed by David Bruckner, Matt Bettinelli-Olpin, stars Joe Swanberg, Adam Wingard, Lane Hughes, Kate Lyn Sheil

Porn criminals are forced to watch horrifying video tapes, only they find the one they've been hired to find. The Hollywood Reporter's Justin Lowe states, "Refreshingly, it possesses no more than its delivers."

Resident Evil: Retribution 3D

Directed by Paul W.S. Anderson, stars Milla Jovovich, Michelle Rodriguez, Sienna Guillory, Shawn Roberts, Kevin Durand, Boris Kodjoe, Aryana Engineer, Colin Salmon, Oded Fehr, Bingbing Li

Umbrella Corporation's Alice is captured and brainwashed by the evil corporation. Variety's Joe Leydon: "Fans of the franchise will be pleased by the return of familiar faces and the introduction of new ones."

Taken 2

Directed by Olivier Megaton, stars Liam Neeson, Famke Janssen, Maggie Grace, Rade Serbedzija, Luenell, Jon Gries, Leland Orser

Bryan Mills and family are kidnapped by the father of one of the men he killed in the first movie. Variety's Joe Leydon: "Neeson's performance is the only reason to see this sequel."

Tuhog

Directed by Jay Abello, stars Jay Abello, Ricky Davao, Ces Quesada, Ronnie Lazaro, Ricky Rivero, Jeffrey Quizon, Jeffrey Tam, Jeffrey Hidalgo, Jeffrey Jeturian

Four men are kidnapped by a mysterious group. Rappler's Oggs Cruz: "Tuhog is a film that will make you think, and it will make you feel."

Sun Cellular intensifies 3G network coverage nationwide

At the prime of social media and mobile data connectivity, renowned telecoms-innovators Sun Cellular has intensified its ongoing expansion program and upgraded 3G support facilities to further boost its data coverage nationwide.

"A significant part of Sun Cellular's large-scale expansion program this year lies on the optimization and augmentation of 3G network facilities to support its continuously growing nationwide base," says Ricky Peña, SVP for Peoplenet, Broadband, New Business and Marketing Services of Sun Cellular. "As we take part in fuelling up the social media and smartphone revolution, we also work on guaranteeing a robust communication support for all these," he adds.

Further to its current nationwide scope, Sun has reported a coverage boost of almost 400 new 3G cells outside the National Capital Region (NCR), along various provinces of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. Close to 30 new 3G sites have also been activated in the NCR.

"Now, more of our kababayans from as far south as Aparri to more as far down south as Tawi-Tawi can enjoy a reliable and best-value access to the latest in broadband and data technology, through Sun Broadband and through our flagship data services," Peña shares.

Aside from working to provide a better service for its on-the-go 3G subscribers, Peña also revealed that the network has also rolled out more In-Building Solutions and high gain antennas to ensure strong signal for data users indoors. He added that Sun is likewise continuing its network upgrade for increased capacity in NCR where the demand for Sun Broadband's services is highest.

"From through the active lifestyle of our "netizens" and mobile data users, we also make sure to ground them well with strong and stable indoor connection... for the home, the office or even schools and commercial establishments," Peña adds.

Reporting a double-digit 3G growth for the first half of this year, Sun Cellular endeavours to keep up its pace with the introduction of more ground-breaking innovations and value-for-money services. One of these is the recently launched Sun Broadband Group Plans, a first-to-the-market broadband offering which features multiple lines with shared internet hours under just a single account.

Sun Cellular is a member of the PLDT Group.

LINKSYS SMART WI-FI ROUTERS AND CISCO CONNECT CLOUD

Changing the game for connected homes

By Maribel Salazar

ICYMI (connected and never miss a heartbeat. That's the message of Cisco during the unveiling of Linksys Smart Wi-Fi Routers and software platform Cisco Connect Cloud. Linksys Smart Wi-Fi Routers are meant to make homes Wi-Fi connected. The new routers (EA4500, EA3500 and EA2700) are ideal for streaming high-definition videos, online gaming, downloading large files, and connecting multiple devices. "We are changing the game when it comes to the connected home, ushering in a whole new level of experiences, simplicity and convenience," said Brian Pringle, vice president and general manager of Cisco Home Networking. Linksys EA4500 is ideal for large, multi-room homes and home theaters. It's a wireless-N dual-band router up to 900 megabits per second and it is priced at P8,950. Linksys EA3500's wireless-N dual-band can go up to 750 mbps and costs P7,495. Linksys EA2700's wireless-N dual-band can go up to 300 mbps and is priced at P5,950. All these new routers have four gigabit ports. Cisco Connect Cloud lets people to create an account and access to multiple home networks from their mobile, tablet app or web browser through the Cisco Connect mobile app, and gives guests Internet access, set parental controls or add new devices to their network anytime and anywhere. Along with the app is the Cisco Connect Cloud Simple Tag which allows consumers to connect devices to Linksys Smart Wi-Fi Routers with one tap of a button or with a quick swipe or scan of a device sticker, making it easier than ever to add devices to the network. Simple Tag is helpful for bring your own device (BYOD) customers. When installing new devices such as Smart TVs, printers or tablets, anyone can now use the Cisco Connect Cloud mobile app on the smartphone to get the compatible device connected in a matter of seconds.

Just press the virtual Wi-Fi Protected Setup button in the mobile app and one is quickly connected. Once logged that in the near future people can get easily connected by scanning a Near Field Communications (NFC) tag that may be bundled with or integrated in various consumer electronic (CE) products. Cisco has been working with a range of CE device and home appliance manufacturers on partnerships that deliver better experiences to mutual broader set of customers. Cisco's newest partnership is with Onlive, an international CE manufacturer that has included the Simple Tap functionality in their new wireless 7.1 AV Receiver. "Simple Tap really simplifies how our new 2012 AV receiver can be connected to the network, so people can instantly enjoy their favorite cinema, music, streaming services such as Pandora, Spotify, Slacker Internet Radio and many other services," said Mitsuaki Okada, president, Onkyo Sound and Vision Corp., one of the first companies to partner with Cisco and use Simple Tap. Cisco is also working with third-party developers for its first set of mobile apps that provide extended experiences to Linksys Smart Wi-Fi Routers. There are six new developer apps including an app that lets people search and "locate" certified routers in a home TV or AirPlay-compatible device; an app that helps install home monitoring cameras and provides monitoring at home and on the go; and apps that give parents easy ways to keep their children safe online. "Block the Bad Stuff" by Intel-GuardMag ear protect all users and devices from morning content from security vulnerable sites, adult content and other non-family friendly sites. "FightFor" by Automic allows users to play games, share photos, music, videos on their phones, tablets, PC, Mac or TV. "Control IP Camera Viewer" app by Securial Solutions enables iPhone users to monitor their homes on smart phones and tablets via Wi-Fi and cellular networks. "Parents Video" by Pocket Video is a movie browser for smartphones and tablets to browse online video services and "boost" them to Smart TV or AirPlay devices. "Device Monitoring" by Gelant "watches" connected devices and gives real-time status updates about them. Parents can get notifications when their children go online with their gaming consoles or monitor how long they have been online. "Netparenter" by Scansafe and Admitone can create or block certain websites for all users or per specific device.

Nokia's Amazing Team

NOKIA honored its top dealers at its 2012 dealer convention at Republic. Nokia Philippines general manager Sharmaine Gochuico (left) and business development manager Kelly Guan (right) presented Harvey Ang of Shoppe's Mart from Zamboanga City with the National Gold award for having reached the highest percentage achievement versus revenue target. The awardee also received a cash prize and a trip to any Philippine tourist spot of his choice.

Buffalo introduces world's first dual interface portable storage

BUFFALO Technology, a global leader in the design, development and manufacturing of wired and wireless networking and network and client attached storage solutions, recently announced the availability of the world's first portable Thunderbolt and USB 3.0 dual-interfaces external drive solution.

With the expected widespread adoption of Thunderbolt by Windows PC manufacturers joining the existing and stable Apple Thunderbolt market, the MiniStation Thunderbolt / USB Portable Hard Drive is ideal for PC and Mac users looking for the fastest interface speeds while preserving backward compatibility with existing devices that support USB 2.0 or USB 3.0.

"Creating, storing and managing digital content on the go has always been a challenging proposal for all types of users as either the interface was incompatible or too slow or the storage solution was physically too large," said Brian Worsfold, director of marketing at Buffalo Technology.

"Collaborating with Intel to deliver the world's first dual-interface Thunderbolt and USB storage solution as well as the most life-time portable Thunderbolt hard drive on the market is empowering spirit and engineering excellence," he added.

Housed in a sleek aluminum body with a transparent frosted top, the MiniStation Thunderbolt features an indicator dial across LED indicators on the underside that carefully illuminates its supporting surface.

Bus-powered, the HDD requires no additional power supply, and it can be formatted to support both PCs and Macs, making it a great portable storage solution for any device. Compatibility with Mac OS X Snow Machine also enables the MiniStation Thunderbolt / USB Portable Hard Drive as ideal solution for backup with Mac computers.

"The unrivalled drive is an unparalleled performance, flexibility and simplicity to personal computing," said Jason Zillet, Intel's director of Thunderbolt marketing. "Products like the Buffalo Technology MiniStation Thunderbolt / USB Portable Hard Drive help highlight what Thunderbolt makes possible."

The MiniStation Thunderbolt / USB Portable Hard Drive is the first to integrate the ubiquitous 5 Gbps super speed USB 3.0 port for legacy support with the 10 Gbps Thunderbolt technology developed by Intel to deliver maximum interface speeds and compatibility.

Consumers can now store digital content faster, simply consolidate between devices, maintain compatibility with nearly any device and insure new and exciting ways to use portable storage.

The Thunderbolt MiniStation is available in 500GB and 1TB priced at P9,800 and P13,800, respectively. For availability and other product info, please contact MSHOT at 688-3080 to 84 or e-mail marketing@msi.com.ph.

Sharp marks centennial with biggest LCD/LED TV

By Joel V. Nigos
Photos by Eugene Jerusalem

TO MARK its 100th year of global operations, Sharp unveiled its biggest LCD/LED TV for the local market.

Sharp (Phils.) Corp. president Takahiro Tanaka led the introduction of the new large Sharp Aquos series, along with its other new appliances during the event, which also coincided with the 30th anniversary celebration of the company in the Philippines.

Aquos comes in 42", 70" and 60" and boasts of life-changing technologies—but not only powerful—enhanced viewing pleasures but are also environment-friendly.

Smart Net TV

Sharp Aquos is a smart television for people who want to see it not only for watching broadcasted programs. The means set the Aquos provide easy access to popular online services and operations through the remote control.

Surf the Net, scan channels, choose kind applications and watch recorded movies, all at the touch of a button. Watch videos on YouTube or make widescreen video calls on your Aquos with Skype. (A Skype camera is available at lowmalls.com products/sharp.)

Music, pictures and video stored on a smartphone can also be enjoyed via the large screen by connecting it to Aquos TV with a cable. The Aquos TV can be operated using the smartphone as a remote control.

Brilliant yellow subpixels

In addition, the newly developed four-color system Quattron technology and X-Gen panel dramatically improves color expressiveness and picture quality. The four-color system adds yellow reproduction to the conventional primary colors red, green and blue.

This markedly enhanced yellow reproduction provides a wider range in gradations to deliver colors just as they are in nature. Compared with the three primary color pixel by 6.2 million dots, more than 8 million dots of the four-color system delivers greater picture precision.

The brilliant yellow subpixels provide efficient backlight operation with reproduction in higher quality. Less power is needed to reproduce the same level of yellow output than in conventional panels.

Sharp's LED system also enables precise brightness control and high-speed response which reduces the light required to view the same picture, thus, decreasing power consumption.

New X-Gen panel, energy save mode

Sharp Aquos' other features include the new X-Gen panel, exclusive control, energy save mode, and optical picture control (OPC).

Compared to the conventional Advanced Super View panel, the new X-Gen panel has a wider aperture ratio allowing more light transmission through the panel. This greatly helps achieve a high contrast ratio with less power.

This series also surpasses the issue in energy-saving design with dedicated electronics on the remote control that allows the user to choose between two levels of energy-saving—standard or advanced. Setting the power-saving level can result in decreased overall power consumption.

The eco-picture control and OPC features, meanwhile, analyze the picture signal to optimally control the backlight brightness and picture quality to produce high-quality picture with low power consumption, and automatically adjusts the screen brightness according to the ambient room brightness. This is not only eco-friendly since it leads to greater conservation of energy but it also easy on the eyes.

Life-changing technologies

Sharp's humble beginnings began with Tokuji Hayakawa, a young inventor and visionary at 19, when he started to create life-changing products.

SHARP (Phils.) Corp. president Takahiro Tanaka (left) with Rene Guillardo, Sharp (Phils.) assistant manager for marketing, during the unveiling of the biggest Sharp Aquos LCD/LED TVs.

In 1912, he invented the world's first mechanical pencil. In 1920, Hayakawa founded one of the first crystal radio set in Japan which made Sharp a pioneer of the broadcasting age.

While research on television began in 1931, Sharp started the mass production of the first television set in 1953.

In 1961, Sharp began to study different technologies like electronic calculators, solar cells, electronic musical equipment, optical semiconductors and computers. In 1970, it began the mass production of light emitting diode (LED) devices which made the

ULTIMATE IN BUSINESS ULTRABOOKS

Lenovo unveils new ThinkPad variants

By Joel Nigos

LENOVO recently unveiled its Ultrabook lineup for business customers as it highlighted 20 years of ThinkPad innovations. The ThinkPad X1 Carbon, its premier Ultrabook, and the ThinkPad T430u Ultrabook, the thinnest T-series to date, offer outstanding mobile experiences inside a sleek and stylish design.

Vicky Agoncillo, Lenovo Philippines country general manager, said: "Very few brands are fortunate enough to become an industry icon with loyal fans. Lenovo's commitment to innovation continues to deliver the best products to the industry and we're excited to debut our business-class Ultrabooks, the ThinkPad T430u and ThinkPad X1 Carbon, the pinnacle of our ongoing quest to push the boundaries in great design and engineering. These products meet the demand for extremely thin and light laptops with the performance users need to accomplish their professional and business goals."

Powered by third generation Intel Core processors, the new ThinkPad Ultrabooks boot and wake up in a flash and offer impressive battery life, all in a secure and managed environment that business users require in today's busy world.

Premier Ultrabook for business

The ThinkPad X1 Carbon is the world's lightest 14-inch Ultrabook weighing less than three pounds. It is created for those who demand the highest levels of mobility, performance, responsiveness and design.

While incredibly light, thanks to its carbon fiber construction, it retains the ThinkPad's renowned durability for use in practically any environment. The ThinkPad X1 Carbon, in fact, passed eight US military tests for durability including low pressure, humidity, vibration, high and low temperature, temperature shock, dust, and physical shock.

To keep users up and running, the ThinkPad X1 Carbon provides eight hours of battery life and military-test champ times with Lenovo Rapid Charge technology. Equipped with optional 3G mobile broadband and hotspot technology, users can stay connected virtually anywhere, anytime.

Despite its thin design, the ThinkPad X1 Carbon delivers a full-size experience with a backlit keyboard that maximizes the legendary ThinkPad typing feel for ease of use and accuracy. The X1 Carbon also includes a multi-gesture glass surface touchpad, HD video-chatting camera, dual array microphones and Dolby-tuned audio for crisp and clear sound.

Business ready with Intel vPro technology, the ThinkPad X1 Carbon is among the first 15 Ultrabooks to offer true corporate-level security and management ability. Its expansion capabilities and to manage complex cables, users can dock it via Lenovo's new USB 3.0 Dock. Additionally, Lenovo delivers a variety of service and support packages such as customer training, extended warranties and accidental damage protection.

Powering up SMEs

The ThinkPad T430u Ultrabook, meanwhile, powers the business and personal computing needs of today's small and medium businesses. It equips professionals with the mobility and light designs found in consumer Ultrabooks without sacrificing business-class performance. Configurable with a unique combination of Nvidia GeForce graphics and 1 TB of storage, it provides powerful graphics capability and massive storage capacity which are rarely found in Ultrabooks.

At more than seven hours of battery life, the ThinkPad T430u also provides full-day freedom from power cords. And since small and medium enterprises (SMEs) often do not have dedicated IT departments, the ThinkPad T430u comes with Lenovo Solution Center for Small Business, which includes Intel Small Business Advantage that provides regular updates to improve productivity and enhance security.

This diagnostic center helps users self-manage backup and recovery, passwords, Internet connection, anti-virus software, firewall settings and drivers. It also comes equipped with Lenovo Solution Center (LSC), a diagnostic and utility suite which provides a simple dashboard to view total system health and take preventive measures to avoid any potential downtime.

The ThinkPad X1 Carbon and ThinkPad T430u are now available in the Philippines. Pricing for models starts at P99,990 and P61,980, respectively.

New Canon PIXMA Ink Efficient E510 makes quality printing convenient and affordable

FOR STUDENTS, small business owners, entrepreneurs, and home-office owners, the ideal printer is one that meets their need for image quality, affordability, ease of use and dependability. Now Canon PIXMA, the number one inkjet printer brand in the Philippines for 2011, combines all these features into the new Canon PIXMA Ink Efficient E510.

With its affordable price of P3,995, the PIXMA E510 is the ideal printing partner for students and entrepreneurs who demand high print volume and professional quality. Its FINE (Full photo-lithography Inkjet Nozzle Engineering) technology integrates more vivid colors, enhanced image quality, and increased print speed, giving users the professional print experience they desire for their documents.

Canon PIXMA owners can print as many as 1,200 high-quality pages for as low as 1.7 centavos per monochrome and 1.74 centavos for color.

Moreover, the PIXMA E510 offers eye-catching print effects which can manipulate images into fun perspectives such as fish-eye, miniature, tone-effect, soft focus, and fun background. Its innovative software called My Image Garden allows users to create and print collages, cards, and calendars easily.

User-friendliness is also evident in the PIXMA E510's quick and easy two-step installation process. One does not have to deal with messy bottles as one simply needs to plug the printer USB cord and install the printer driver into the computer, and the printer will be up and running in less than 5 minutes. Practical scanning and copying functions also add to the user's overall enjoyment.

The PIXMA Ink Efficient E510 comes with a three-year warranty and SFNO (Expert Professional) Service which consists of a helpdesk (1864-8888), customized service within NCR, and service centers nationwide. From Oct. 1 to Jan. 31, 2013, purchasers of this printer will also receive a free Franklin Covey pen and Anis watch gift set.

Providing quality, affordability, and peace of mind, this all-in-one printer encompasses all the elements in a printing partner that students and business professionals look for. For more information on the Canon PIXMA Ink Efficient E510, visit www.canon.com.ph.

Sharp marks centennial with biggest LCD/LED TV

Homepage G2

company's household name.

In the Philippines, Sharp began its operations in 1981 with manufacturing facilities that enabled it to produce locally its first-of-its-kind products such as the conventional television unit, washing machine and karaoke. Tanaka said that SPC plans to expand its locally manufactured products as part of its commitment to provide products that are adaptive to the Filipino lifestyle.

Tanaka is optimistic in the socio-economic impact of Sharp products in the Philippine society. He said: "We want to be part of the continuous economic growth of the Philippines by producing locally with the vision that our employees must grow together with the company in achieving its financial growth in the years to come."

In the near future, Sharp plans to manufacture front LCD/LED TVs and other appliances in the Philippines.

From the invention of the first mechanical pencil to the world's first biggest LCD/LED TV, Sharp has evolved into a global leader in consumer electronics and industrial technologies. Some of its most notable contributions to humanity are calculator manufacturing, superheated steam oven technology, plasmacluster ion technology and solar panels.

"There is a global need for companies to go green with the rapid deterioration of our environment. Sharp is in unity with the rest of the humanity to make this world a safe place to live in. We are continuously making and innovating products using environmental technologies that would help lessen, if not totally eliminate, pollutants in the air. Sharp and all its affiliate companies worldwide are united in achieving its corporate vision of becoming an 'eco-positive company,'" Tanaka said.

SHARP (Phils.) Corp. president Takahiro Tanaka delivers a speech during the observance of Sharp's 100th year globally and 30th year in the Philippines.

Smart pushes 'Internet for All'

Wireless services leader Smart Communications, Inc. (Smart) says it is stepping up efforts to make broadband technology and other Internet services accessible to more Filipinos, citing a recent report that showed the positive effect of broadband adoption on the Philippine economy.

In a report titled "The State of Broadband 2012: Achieving Digital Inclusion for All," the United Nations agency Broadband Commission for Digital Development said mobile broadband usage accounted for 6.9 percent of the growth in Philippine gross domestic product (GDP) in the past decade.

"Mobile broadband made such a contribution to the country's economy, even though only 3.4 percent of Filipinos had mobile Internet subscriptions last year. Imagine how significant its impact would be if we were able to improve mobile broadband penetration. This is why Smart continues to launch accessible, reliable, and state-of-the-art broadband products and services," said Smart Chief Wireless Advocate Napoleon Nazareno.

Fiber advantage

To this end, Smart said it is banking on its fiber advantage. "Fiber optic networks are absolutely vital if you want to provide reliable, advanced communication services. The PLDT Group has the most extensive and most modern fiber optic network in the country," said Rolando G. Peña, head of network and IP systems of Smart and PLDT.

Peña said parent company PLDT currently have about 745,000 kilometers of fiber optic cable rolled out nationwide. Working with Digital and Jam Cellular, the PLDT Group is adding more.

Already, fiber networks connect most of Smart's base stations in Metro Manila and improving number elsewhere in the country. These mobile boxes carry increasingly large volumes of voice calls and SMS. Its state-of-the-art mobile high-speed data services like Long Term Evolution (LTE).

Smart is the first and only telco which offers commercial, multi-mode LTE services in the country. It offers double-fast dual LTE plans that allow unlimited* Internet surfing at speeds of up to 42 Mbps.

Smart also recently introduced the Smart LTE Pocket WiFi, which allows people to enjoy LTE speeds on any Wi-Fi-enabled device.

"This portable 4G (4 years) brings the power of LTE closer to Filipinos who do not have LTE-compatible devices, and even to non-Smart subscribers," Nazareno said.

Broadband as productivity booster

Smart is also coming up with special LTE plans for enterprise customers.

"We assure our enterprise customers that we will provide Smart LTE services that will meet their sophisticated and extensive broadband needs," said Jose Bienvenido Ang, head of PLDT Alpha. Same price as of Smart Infinity Surfing.

According to a 2011 World Bank study, broadband has the potential to transform an economy when used by businesses, governments, and citizens in a way that increases productivity.

One of the biggest broadband users in the Philippines is the Information Technology-Business Process Outsourcing (IT-BPO) industry, which contributed 5.4 percent of the country's GDP in 2011. The Department of Science and Technology said the figure is estimated to hit 8.8 percent by 2016.

The IT-BPO industry contributed about 2.0 billion in export revenues, 500,000 direct jobs, and around 1.5 million indirect jobs to the Philippine economy in 2011, the DOST said.

"A growing body of evidence shows that broadband and the tremendous positive effects not only on Filipinos as individual consumers, but also on the country's economic status. This is why Smart has come up with a superior and extensive lineup of broadband products and services," Nazareno said.

Smart's mobile broadband solutions include the 3G (High Speed Packet Access (HSPA)) Smart Xpress Plug-It, Smart Power Plug-It, and Smart Pocket WiFi which offer speeds of up to 7.2 Mbps.

It also has the 4G HSPA+ Smart Rocket Plug-It and Smart Rocket WiFi, which are capable of speeds of up to 21 Mbps and 28 Mbps, respectively.

For prepaid and postpaid smartphone users, Smart has some of time- and volume-based data packages such as Unlifetime and Infinity Lite, which are available for as low as P1/day.

Smart LTE Dongle

Smart LTE Pocket WiFi

*One Day Internet, \$1, 2012. Super UP, Plus, UP Kwela, and Infinity Lite, which are available for as low as P1/day, will have data caps of 10 GB and 2 GB, respectively.

Move up with Urbanears headphones

By Marlet Salazar

SOME are the dark ages of headphones. While black still commands elegance, the youth are now looking for colorful and sleek designs in complete theta getup. Headphones are functional style.

Urbanears, a Swedish brand, recently opened its first concept store in the Philippines at the Podium, corrigan Center, Mandaluyong City. Headquartered exclusively by Digital Trading Corp., Urbanears is unveiled its Fall collection with a splash of color and epic coolness.

The brand pays homage to its roots by naming each product after places in Sweden, like The essence of Urbanears also lies that the brand represents the vibrancy of the urban environment in Sweden. The designs are well thought of, adhering to the company's key concept with emphasis on performance and style.

The idea of 'Urbanears' design and colors a matching every music lover's personality. And the business of headphones has never been this colorful with Urbanears adding three more colors in its collection.

The top model, entitled as retaining Urbanears headphones are designs functionality, and color. Cobra is what distinguishes the brand from the others. It comes up with two colored collections, each offering seven colors and five new ones, depending on what the consumer's like or what the trend dictates.

Urbanears also produces 1:1 colors in each collection. Sets of which are quite common. The new of the colors are interchangeable depending on the season. Urbanears also produces the editions line, which features the cast of different fabrics and textile, and which is released only twice a year. It also comes up with two more colors or what it calls an "supplementary drop."

Cobra's are chosen based on many themes: having a good and equal ratio between dark and light shades, feminine and masculine nuances, and classic elementary colors, as well as more subdued and expressive second shades.

Poised to inspire fly the fearless and spirit of brand users. The designs offer genre with versatile the solid, easy-to-blend in the crowd. It gives that feeling of being just a little bit classic to nature.

The message side of Pumpkin reminds people of someone (even if there's no relation in the Philippines). Pumpkin glows with warmth. Rust or deep orange shade screams fashionista. Mauve lovers who seem to get noticed in a crowd would boldly resist the color.

Urbanears does more than just produce really cool headphones. The company also does its share of social responsibility by using "non-recycled biodegraded like alcohol" for packaging. It also manufactures recycled electronics wastes because the headphones are built to last and can withstand the abuse of daily use.

Urbanears headphones are priced from P 1,200 to P1,400.

Power Mac Center partners with WWF to revive Sierra Madre forests

POWER Mac Center (PMC) recently held our "Green Movement," an activities campaign to help save the environment, with a maiden eco-brewery initiative in partnership with the world's largest and most experienced conservation organization, the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

PMC and WWF recently signed a memorandum of agreement to revive degraded forest areas in the Sierra Madre, the Philippines' longest mountain range and largest protected area.

Over 150 medicine-tainted species—from the Philippine Eagle to the newly discovered Palawan Peacock Flycatcher—thrive in Sierra Madre's vigorously vegetated ridges, while its forests provide an estimated 400,000 hectares of rice farms and coastlands in the Cagayan Valley.

According to PMC marketing director Joel Abenoja: "We launched the Green Movement as our corporate social responsibility (CSR) program to help conserve the environment while further strengthening the company's bond with its increasingly environmentally conscious customers. And we are glad to partner with no less than WWF to contribute in helping save the Sierra Madre forests."

Agroforestry is a unique approach to soil restoration, which uses fruit-bearing trees to create nutrient production, establish carbon sinks and provide food sources. Since 2009, WWF has supported the cultivation of over 17,200 Mango, Jamaica and other fruit-bearing tree species in logged-over areas.

WWF-Philippines senior waters resources manager Gil Saguiguit says, "Water is the lifeblood of agriculture. The tough this agroforestry initiative, PMC is doing its part to secure food and water for the people of Isabela."

With the Green Movement also aiming to increase people's awareness of environment-related issues, PMC's staff attended WWF-led environmental training that included lectures on how to reduce carbon footprint. A lecture on the Abusa watershed in Isabela was also conducted by WWF to enlighten PMC employees on the importance of the role of partnership with the local community and other stakeholders to succeed in managing its watersheds.

Sierra Madre forests have been depicted in the past by illegal logging, resident farming and land clearing.

As part of its Green Movement Campaign, PMC is also encouraging all customers to use eco-bags when buying products in their 14 stores nationwide. Savings generated from the project will fund the Sierra Madre reforestation.

Notably, as part of early preparations for the PMC Green Movement, the company also launched its campaign with the Earth Day celebration, the Green Canvas Digital Illustration Contest. In the form of a digital illustration, entries in the contest can express the message that preserving the country's forests is important, specifically in providing a habitat for plants and animals, regulating our climate, helping prevent soil erosion and flooding, providing a source for clean water and maintaining a balanced biodiversity.

HP Ink Advantage features A+ printing magic at SM Megamall roadshow

HP, THE world's largest technology company, lets families discover the A+ possibilities of printing as it rolls out the HP Ink Advantage road show to your ongoing until Oct. 17 at HP Hogar mall, Corrigan.

Featuring the HP Ink Advantage portfolio, the event brings families a day of fun and learning through an educational booth offering activities for kids of all interests.

"Designed to bring out kids' creativity, the booth showcases exciting activities like printing, poetry writing and storytelling, as well as fashion design. Children can learn how coloring can be made to print pages at the printing corner, and explore animation and presentation at the game corner and video booth. Little girls can also cut and color paper doll printed using HP Ink Advantage printers.

"HP's Ink Advantage line-up was designed to meet today's printing demands, especially with printing requirements of kids at school. Through this, we are hoping to contribute to world-building of members of academic excellence as we provide them with the right tools to achieve their dreams and potentials at this age of discovery and learning," said Albert Ilarde, country general manager of HP Philippines' Printing and Personal Systems.

The HP Ink Advantage line-up includes the HP Deskjet Ink Advantage 2010 All-in-One printer which is available at a suggested retail price (SRP) of P6,490; the HP Deskjet Ink Advantage 4610 All-in-One for P6,890 and the Deskjet Ink Advantage 4625 e-All-in-One for P7,990. The HP Deskjet Ink Advantage 3525 and 3525 e-All-in-One retail for P6,990 and P7,990 respectively.

With HP Ink Advantage printers, everyone can now have an A+ printing experience that fits their every printing need. Visit the Ink Advantage booth at the Ayala Central Place of SM Megamall Building B and discover fun new ways of learning with the HP Ink Advantage printers.

ADDE Storybrowsing activities for the kids, the rainbow features down of the Ink Advantage portfolio. Learn more about HP Print Apps and wireless features with HP Wireless Direct and HP ePrint.

Head-turning looks.
Mind-blowing sound.

Introducing the HP ENVY 4 Ultrabook.

It's the ultra-light, ultra-tough, ultra-responsive HP ENVY that's up for anything. Powered by the Intel® Core™ i5 processor and featuring built-in Beats Audio®, you have it all. For more, go to hp.com/go/envy

- HP Imprint anti-fingerprint protection
- Up to 8 hour battery life*
- Beats Audio

Now available at P 44,990

Buy a Windows 7 PC and get Windows 8 for $14.99*

hp

THE HP Ink Advantage Roadshow features the latest international printers that kids will love.

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RATES
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2012

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Chemonics International, a multinational development firm, seeks experienced management and technical specialists for an anticipated 5-year Contract...

General Qualifications:
- Degree in engineering, environmental science, urban planning, public policy or other related field required.
- Minimum 7 years of professional experience in and knowledge of relevant technical areas, including water and sanitation delivery and infrastructure, ground water and surface water, solid waste management, urban planning, institutional and capacity enhancement, cost recovery, and climate change adaptation.
- Knowledge of the Philippines' water policies, laws, institutions, and management issues.
- Experience working in donor-funded water programs, USAID preferred.
- Demonstrated leadership, reliability, and integrity.
- Strong interpersonal skills and exceptional written oral and language skills. Fluency in English.

Engineering and Hydrology Specialists: Demonstrated experience in designing climate water and wastewater infrastructure and/or assessing and planning for surface water supply and hydrological resources and developing mechanisms for basin management.

Policy and Institutional Development Specialists: Expert in working in the capacity of national and municipal planners, private or community consultants to improve water and water/sanitation service delivery. Skills and experience working with government bodies and private sector entities in the water sector, to ensure supply, to promote policy reform, including national-level policy dialogue, legislative, regulatory, and associated implementation and enforcement.

Operations and Management Specialists: Private sector/non-engineering profile in urban water/sanitation and will potentially be field-oriented and operations. Experience with issues such as enhancing cost recovery and reducing unaccounted-water is a plus. Knowledge of climate change issues, disaster and climate change adaptation planning desirable.

Private sector Climate Data Specialists: Experience working with various types of water resources and climate data for modelling and analysis and decision making, including assessment of climate vulnerability and adaptation planning.

Send resumes, references and cover letter to mfajardo@chemonics.com by Wednesday October 24, 2012. Please indicate if and when is the earliest date to be employed. Due to the high volume of applications, phone inquiries will not be entertained.

BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE
Revenue Region No. 9 – San Pedro City

INVITATION TO BID

Name of Project	
Approved Budget for the Contract	
Date of Pre-Bid Conference	
Deadline of Submission of Bid	
Date of Bid Opening	
Source of Funding	
Requirements	
Minimum Qualifications	
Availability of Bid Documents	
Pre-Bid Conference	
Deadline for Submission of Eligibility Technical Component and Financial Component envelopes and Location of Bid Opening	

Bidding documents/forms shall be made available to interested bidders after payment of a non-refundable amount of [illegible] to be paid to the Revenue Collection Officer of Batangas City and San Pedro City. Bids must be delivered to the Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat at the Revenue Building, [illegible] on or before the deadline. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the form of [illegible]. The Bureau reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive any defect therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

City Government of Dasmariñas
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
City Hall, Dasmariñas

INVITATION TO BID

The CITY GOVERNMENT OF DASMARIÑAS, thru its duly constituted Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), intends to undertake the following projects:

Name of Projects	Approved Budget for the Contract	Date/Time: Pre-Bid Conference	Date/Time: Deadline/ Opening of Bids	Price of Bid Documents (non-refundable)
1. Construction of Road Widening/Construction of Curb / Gutter/Sidewalk and Drainage	[illegible]	Oct. 24, 2012 10:00 AM	Nov. 06, 2012 9:00 AM	[illegible]
2. Construction of Two (2) Storey Extension Building at Paliparan National High School, Phase III	[illegible]	Oct. 24, 2012 10:00 AM	Nov. 06, 2012 9:00 AM	[illegible]

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the Office of the City Mayor, Procurement Section and Invited Observers (IIOs) and inspect the Bidding Documents from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM starting October 17, 2012 to November 06, 2012.

The CITY GOVERNMENT OF DASMARIÑAS reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

ATTY. LOIL MARCOS ARANGO
BAC Chairman

MAKE YOUR CAREER A BEAUTIFUL JOURNEY.

FOR MORE THAN 150 YEARS, MEN AND WOMEN AT LOUIS VUITTON HAVE SHARED THE SAME SPIRIT OF EXCELLENCE, REAFFIRMING THEIR EXPERTISE EVERY DAY, THE WORLD OVER. WITH US, EVERY CAREER IS A JOURNEY, RUED WITH RESTRAINT AND CHALLENGES, DOUBTS AND DARING. THERE IS NO BETTER WAY TO REVEAL YOUR POTENTIAL. EXPLORE, DEVELOP, INNOVATE, CREATE... EVERY JOURNEY IS UNIQUE. TODAY, LOUIS VUITTON INVITES YOU TO DISCOVER YOUR OWN.

RECRUITMENT DAYS
SALES ASSOCIATE
Holiday Staff — Full-time/Part-time

OCTOBER 18 & 19, 2012
Time: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM & 2:00 PM – 6:00 PM
Venue: Louis Vuitton Boutique, Greenbelt IV

We are seeking passionate retail sales professionals to support our dynamic team. Ideal candidates should have a positive attitude, be self-motivated and customer-focused.

Prospective Holiday Staff should be available for work commencing on November 12th and ending on December 30th. You must be prepared to work flexible shifts, including evenings, weekends, and holidays.

We invite you to visit our store, submit your application and interview with us on Recruitment Days. If you are not available during the Recruitment Days, you may submit your resume via email to hr@ph.vuitton.com by October 19, 2012 at noon.

Find all career opportunities on www.louisvuitton.com

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CHEMONICS

Technical and Project Support Experts for USAID – Advancing Philippine Competitiveness (CAPECITE) Project

Chemonics International, a leading international development consulting firm, seeks experienced management and technical specialists for an anticipated 5-year Contract...

Engineering Lead and Economic Growth Experts:
- Minimum 7 years of professional experience in and knowledge of relevant technical areas, including water and sanitation delivery and infrastructure, ground water and surface water, solid waste management, urban planning, institutional and capacity enhancement, cost recovery, and climate change adaptation.
- Knowledge of the Philippines' water policies, laws, institutions, and management issues.
- Experience working in donor-funded water programs, USAID preferred.
- Demonstrated leadership, reliability, and integrity.
- Strong interpersonal skills and exceptional written oral and language skills. Fluency in English.

Engineering and Hydrology Specialists: Demonstrated experience in designing climate water and wastewater infrastructure and/or assessing and planning for surface water supply and hydrological resources and developing mechanisms for basin management.

Policy and Institutional Development Specialists: Expert in working in the capacity of national and municipal planners, private or community consultants to improve water and water/sanitation service delivery. Skills and experience working with government bodies and private sector entities in the water sector, to ensure supply, to promote policy reform, including national-level policy dialogue, legislative, regulatory, and associated implementation and enforcement.

Operations and Management Specialists: Private sector/non-engineering profile in urban water/sanitation and will potentially be field-oriented and operations. Experience with issues such as enhancing cost recovery and reducing unaccounted-water is a plus. Knowledge of climate change issues, disaster and climate change adaptation planning desirable.

Private sector Climate Data Specialists: Experience working with various types of water resources and climate data for modelling and analysis and decision making, including assessment of climate vulnerability and adaptation planning.

Send resumes, references and cover letter to mfajardo@chemonics.com by October 24, 2012. Please indicate if and when is the earliest date to be employed. Due to the high volume of applications, phone inquiries will not be entertained.

ERRATUM

In the ad of Pamarta Bus Rooms, Inc. and El Salvador Marine Logistics, Inc. published on October 15, 2012, the word 'pedestrian' should have been 'person'.

Our apologies

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PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

Notice to Depositors and Creditors of the Closed Export and Industry Bank (EIB)

The Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation, as the Receiver of the closed Export and Industry Bank, announces that :

1. In view of the closure of EIB as of 26 April 2013, the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC), in its capacity as statutory receiver, having received manifestations of interest to rehabilitate EIB, has issued the Terms and Conditions of Bid and Bidding Procedures for the Rehabilitation of the closed EIB ("Bidding Procedures") on 3 October 2013.
2. EIB's proposed rehabilitation will involve two tranches: (i) Tranche 1, for the purchase of assets and assumption of liabilities of EIB, and (ii) Tranche 2, for the sale of the commercial bank license of EIB. Both tranches are subject to approval of the Monetary Board. The Bidding Procedures issued by PDIC cover Tranche 1. The bidding procedures for Tranche 2 will be issued upon successful completion of Tranche 1.
3. The bid will be indicated in Philippine peso and will represent the amount the qualified bidder will pay to EIB's depositors (with claims in excess of the insured deposit), and other ordinary creditors of EIB. The bid will also indicate the proposed repayment terms.
4. The winning bid for Tranche 1 will be based on the bid which will offer the highest amount of recovery for the depositors (with claims in excess of the insured deposit) and ordinary creditors of EIB. For purposes of determining the highest bid, the bids will be expressed in present value terms using a discount rate of 5%. The bid will be valid for a period of 60 days from date of submission of the bid.
5. Pursuant to the Bidding Procedures, the PDIC Board will determine the reserve price, or the amount that PDIC has identified as the minimum amount of recovery that depositors (with claims in excess of the insured deposit) and ordinary creditors should receive considering the net value of the free or unencumbered assets and the net benefits to the acquirer of the proposed rehabilitation.
6. The winning bid for Tranche 1 will be applied in proportion to the bona fide claims of the existing depositors (with claims in excess of the insured deposit) and ordinary creditors of EIB.
7. The success of the bidding and the rehabilitation of EIB is premised on the submission of qualified and compliant bids, approval by relevant regulatory agencies, and submission of all required consents from the depositors, creditors and stockholders of EIB for the implementation of Tranches 1 and 2.
8. This notice is being sent in compliance with law, including the Bulk Sales Law.
9. For more details on the bidding for Tranche 1, as well as the proposed rehabilitation of EIB, please refer to Bidding Procedures posted at the PDIC website www.pdic.gov.ph or contact Atty. Nancy L. Sevilla-Samson, PDIC Vice-President for Receivership and Bank Management Group at telephone numbers +632 841-4630 to 31, or e-mail at pad@pdic.gov.ph.

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

(PDIC Oct 17, 2013)

Pag-IBIG FUND

INVITATION TO BID

PROVISION OF SECURITY SERVICES FOR THE Pag-IBIG FUND CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS, NCR OFFICES/BRANCHES, WAREHOUSE AND ACQUIRED ASSETS FOR Y2013-2015

The Pag-IBIG Fund, through its Bids and Awards Committee – Goods and Services (BAC-GS) intends to apply the sum of Sixty Four Million Nine Hundred Twenty Nine Thousand Four Hundred Pesos (PhP 64,929,400.00) inclusive of all applicable taxes for the five (5) year being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Provision of Security Services for the Pag-IBIG Fund Corporate Headquarters, NCR Offices/Branches, Warehouse and Acquired Assets for Y2013-2015, duly received in person or by mail/ courier by authorized representative bidders.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act". Bidding is open to all Filipino citizen/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations at least sixty percent (100%) owned or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5487 (An Act to Regulate the Organization and Operation of Private Detective, Watchman or Security Guard Agencies).

Interested bidders may obtain further information from Pag-IBIG Fund BAC-GS Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents at the 18th Floor, Room 1805, General Services Department, JESP Business Solutions Center, 639 Shaw Boulevard, Brgy. Addition Hills, Mandaluyong City starting October 11, 2013 during Office hours.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders starting October 17, 2013 from the Pag-IBIG Fund BAC-GS Secretariat, 18th Floor, Room 1805, General Services Department, JESP Business Solutions Center, 639 Shaw Boulevard, Brgy. Addition Hills, Mandaluyong City upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Fifty Thousand Pesos (PhP50,000.00) in the form of cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check payable to Pag-IBIG Fund. The Bidding documents shall be secured personally by the prospective bidder or his authorized representative.

It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) at www.philgeps.gov.ph and the website of the Pag-IBIG Fund at www.pagibigfund.gov.ph, provided that bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of bids.

The Pag-IBIG Fund BAC-GS will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on **October 24, 2013, 10:00 a.m.** at the 4th Floor, Board Room, Petron MegaPlaza, 358 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Makati City which shall be open to all interested parties.

Bids must be delivered at the Pag-IBIG Fund BAC-GS Secretariat, 4th Floor, Reception Lobby, Petron MegaPlaza, 358 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Makati City on or before **9:30 a.m. of November 7, 2013.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in **ITB Clause 18**.

Bid opening shall be on **November 7, 2013, 9:30 a.m.** at the 4th Floor, Board Room, Petron MegaPlaza, 358 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Makati City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives. Late bids shall not be accepted.

The Pag-IBIG Fund BAC-GS reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further inquiries and/or information, please call/write Ms. Wilfreda Rachel S. Reyes or Ivan Maria M. Silva at (02) 654-9860/(02) 654-9315 or visit our Corporate Website.

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE – GOODS AND SERVICES

By:

(Sgd.) EMMA LINDA B. MAIA
Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Support Services Cluster and Chair, BAC-GS

INVITATION TO BID

(Bid Notice Abstract)

The ACE Super Fuel Office through 9240-ACE-12-132 Emergency Repair/Installation of Damaged Irrigation Structure and Facilities intends to apply the sum of P8,927,112.00 (Eight Million Nine Hundred Twenty Seven Thousand One Hundred Twelve Pesos Only) being the ABC (VAT Inclusive) to cover a total of 132 ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening.

The ACE Super Fuel Office now invites bids for the Construction of Level Protection and Road Reblocking for Barangay 80 Section of Sitio Tuazon, Contract Time Duration is 120 calendar days. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, namely: the Proponent is a legal organization duly authorized within the context of Bidding Documents to undertake the construction of the project. Bidding Documents may be purchased upon the submission of a written request and payment of a non-refundable fee of P5,000.00 (Five Thousand Pesos Only) in the form of cash, manager's check payable to the Procurement Office's Petty Cash Fund.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 9184 otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines.

Interested bidders may obtain further information on the Bidding Documents and inspect the same at the Procurement Office, 2nd Floor, Administration Building, ACE Super Fuel Office, Sitio Tuazon, Barangay 80, Zone 8, Davao City.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of P5,000.00 (Five Thousand Pesos Only) in the form of cash, manager's check payable to the Procurement Office's Petty Cash Fund.

It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) at www.philgeps.gov.ph and the website of the Agency at www.acesuperfuel.com.ph, provided that bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of bids.

Bids must be delivered at the Procurement Office, 2nd Floor, Administration Building, ACE Super Fuel Office, Sitio Tuazon, Barangay 80, Zone 8, Davao City on or before 10:00 a.m. of November 7, 2013. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 18.

Bid opening shall be on November 7, 2013, 10:00 a.m. at the Procurement Office, 2nd Floor, Administration Building, ACE Super Fuel Office, Sitio Tuazon, Barangay 80, Zone 8, Davao City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives. Late bids shall not be accepted.

The ACE Super Fuel Office reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For more information, please refer to:

Ms. Ma. Cristina Gay Ann Ramos
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

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Attend our Seminar

"How to choose the Right Field of Study to suit your career interest."

Guest Speakers:

CQU- Southeast Asia Regional Manager
Australian Migration Agent

MANILA: October 21, 2012 @ 9 a.m.

Venue: BSA Twin Towers @ the back of SM Megamall (Mega A)

Registration Fee: Php 300.00
First 25 Registrants are Free of charge

"Become One of the Lucky Ones"
Please book early to reserve seats.

VMC Visa & Migration Consultancy
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We are not a recruitment agency

INVITATION TO BID

(Bid Notice Abstract)

The Rail Regain Inc's Office through Order Bid 13 Corrugated Sheets Rehabilitation of Damaged Irrigation Structure and Facilities intends to apply the sum of P8,927,112.00 (Eight Million Nine Hundred Twenty Seven Thousand One Hundred Twelve Pesos Only) being the ABC (VAT Inclusive) to cover a total of 132 ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening.

The Rail Regain Inc's Office now invites bids for the Construction of Level Protection and Road Reblocking for Barangay 80 Section of Sitio Tuazon, Contract Time Duration is 120 calendar days. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, namely: the Proponent is a legal organization duly authorized within the context of Bidding Documents to undertake the construction of the project. Bidding Documents may be purchased upon the submission of a written request and payment of a non-refundable fee of P5,000.00 (Five Thousand Pesos Only) in the form of cash, manager's check payable to the Procurement Office's Petty Cash Fund.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 9184 otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines.

Interested bidders may obtain further information on the Bidding Documents and inspect the same at the Procurement Office, 2nd Floor, Administration Building, Rail Regain Inc's Office, Sitio Tuazon, Barangay 80, Zone 8, Davao City or call (02) 654-9860 to (02) 654-9315.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of P5,000.00 (Five Thousand Pesos Only) in the form of cash, manager's check payable to the Procurement Office's Petty Cash Fund. The requirements of a single corporation, partnership, or association engaged in similar contracts which is at least 50% of the ABC; and (ii) similar contracts which are at least 50% of the ABC.

Bids must be delivered at the Procurement Office, 2nd Floor, Administration Building, Rail Regain Inc's Office, Sitio Tuazon, Barangay 80, Zone 8, Davao City on or before 10:00 a.m. of November 7, 2013. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 18.

Bid opening shall be on November 7, 2013, 10:00 a.m. at the Procurement Office, 2nd Floor, Administration Building, Rail Regain Inc's Office, Sitio Tuazon, Barangay 80, Zone 8, Davao City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives. Late bids shall not be accepted.

The Rail Regain Inc's Office reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders. For more information, please refer to:

Ms. Ma. Cristina Gay Ann Ramos
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT (AEP)

Notice is hereby given that the following-mentioned foreign nationals have filed with the Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permit (AEP):

	Name and Address of Company/ Employer	Name and Nationality of Foreign National	Position and Brief Description of Functions
1.	[illegible]	Mr. Surender Kaur [illegible]	Site Working Manager
2.	[illegible]	Mr. Jashveer Kaur [illegible]	Technical Manager

Any person who has information/objection to the above-mentioned applications may communicate with the Regional Director.

ALEX FAELA
DOLE Regional Director

Claretian Magazine to be launched

CLARETIAN COMMUNICATIONS FOUNDATION, INC. WILL LAUNCH Fil Catholic Magazine: Spreading the Word to the World. Website: Pen to Print Magazine and www.schoolofthewordonline.com at Barangay Garret, Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Balintawak St., U.P. Village, Diliman, Quezon City on October 25, 2013 (Thursday) at 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM.

This magazine and website will be a good resource of nourishment for our spiritual-human growth and provide a healthy relationship with God especially among the youth and to those good writers.

For more information please contact Tel. No. (02) 921-3983/ 922-0011 and look for Ms. Madz B. Ariola or Ms. Tess Adora.

GRAND PRONACO Estate Developers, Inc. (GPEDI) who has been making quality homes affordable for the Filipinos has recently held another successful Grand Launching of its Grand Pronaco Angels, located in Antipolo City, led by its President & CEO, Engr. Reynaldo A. Carpio, Ph.D., together with the property owner Mr. Lorenzo Jamsay. The said project will surely contribute & help the housing development in Rizal. Also in the picture were Engr. Jun Agustin, Senior VP; Engr. Ernesto Ramos, SVP; Mark S. Carpio, VP-Finance; Miriam G. Carpio, GSM; Emmanuel M. Tech, Oscar T. Rodrigues, President for Marketing; VP; Operations Dan V. Garcia, Engr. Larry T. Bacero and Erma Garcia.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

- Copy of Death Certificate
- Any identification (ID)

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and **BANK-TO-BANK** payments

Our Dearly Beloved Daddy

† **ILDEFONSO G. LAUZ**

(Ret.)

Peacefully joined our Lord on October 14, 2012 at the age of 77

His loving wife **Hildegarde** (Addon) Santos and **Jojo** (Edna) and **Edith**; Emily is our Jun, Edward and Glenda, and Vangie; grandchildren Gabbi, Rachelle, Frances, Camille, Bea, Antonio, Lia, Carmela, Richard, Erika, Hazel, Angie, and Jocelyn Carlos and Anna; relatives & friends request the readers to pray for his eternal happiness in heaven.

His remains lie in state at the Capilla del Señor Sacramento de San Antonio Parish, Kristobalz Rd., Forbes Park, Makati City.

Concelebrated Mass will be on Friday, October 19, 2012 at Bonsuge Hall after the 10:00 a.m. Sacred mass at Capilla del Señor.

AIDA FRANI BARZAGA

FEBRUARY 19, 1944 - OCTOBER 2, 2012

Peacefully joined our Creator on October 02, 2012 at Redwood City, San Mateo County, California, USA. Her remains are at the Barzaga's family home in 114 Don Placido Campos Avenue, City of Dasmariñas, Cavite.

She is survived by her sisters, Lourdes Barzaga-Ricanata, Nocisa Barzaga-David, Helen Barzaga-Santos and brother Pidi Barzaga.

Interment will be held at Sacred Heart Memorial Gardens, San Agustin 3, City of Dasmariñas, Cavite on October 20, 2012 after the celebration of the Holy Mass at 12 noon at the Immaculate Conception Parish Church, City of Dasmariñas, Cavite.

Please omit flowers. Donations to the Immaculate Conception Parish, City of Dasmariñas, Cavite will be greatly appreciated.

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.
Matthew 10:39

Jesus answered him, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with Me in paradise."
– Luke 23:43

ELEUTERIO NADALA FORTALEZA

has joined our Creator on October 15, 2012 at the age of 68.

His remains lie at Hebrews, St. Peter Chapels, Quezon Avenue, Quezon City today until October 20, 2012. Interment will be on October 21, 2012, 8:00 a.m. at St. Peter Chapels Cremeterium, Quezon Avenue, Quezon City. He kindly requests the prayers of his relatives and friends for the eternal repose of his soul.

ST. PETER CHAPELS

"Even when I walk through a dark valley, I feel no harm. For you are at my side, your rod and staff give me courage..." **Psalm 23:4**

CLASSIFIEDS

Republic of the Philippines
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Department of Finance
SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills
Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila
Tel. No. 584-0000 Fax No. 584-0000

INVITATION TO BID

SUPPLY OF LABOR, MATERIALS AND TECHNICAL EXPERTISE FOR THE PROPOSED RENOVATION OF MAIN BUILDING (SEC) FLOOR SEC BUILDING

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), through its SEC Bidding Committee (SEC), intends to apply the sum of **Four Million Four Hundred Twenty Seven Thousand Forty Five Pesos (Php 4,427,045.00)**, being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) in payment for the **Supply of Labor, Materials and Technical Expertise for the Proposed Renovation of Cash (SF) Room SEC Building**. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected during bid opening.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

To bid for the contract, a contractor must submit on or before 10:00 a.m. of the bid opening date, the following eligibility documents: (a) Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) License and Registration for the Specific Trade/Area of Specialization; (b) Tax Clearance per Executive Order 398, Series of 2005, as finally reviewed and approved by the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR); (c) Audited Financial Statements stamped "received" by the BIR or its duly accredited and authorized institutions for the preceding calendar year; and (d) Net Financial Contracting Capacity (NFCC) computation.

Bidders should have completed a similar contract to the project being bid, and that the value of the contract must be at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from SEC BAC Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat's Office and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below (Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City) during working hours from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday to Friday starting **October 17, 2012**.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee on **October 17, 2012 (Wednesday) P 10,000.00** (Ten Thousand pesos) in cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The SEC BAC will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on **October 24, 2012, 9:00 AM** at the SEC Conference Room, Mezzanine Floor, SEC Building, which shall be open to all interested parties who have purchased the Bidding Documents.

Bids must be delivered on or before **10:00 AM of November 7, 2012** (Wednesday) **for the procurement of Supply of Labor, Materials and Technical Expertise for the Proposed Renovation of Cash (SF) Room SEC Building**. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in Section 27.2 of the Revised IRR. Bids must be submitted in the form of a letter, in bold letter naming the bidding company duly assembled by the SEC.

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected during bid opening.

The SEC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to annul the bidding process, and to reject at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) **LILIANE P. HEMEDES**
Vice-Chairman, SBAC

SEC-12-1-2012

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
CENTER for HEALTH DEVELOPMENT-METRO MANILA
Research and Multisectoral Compound, Mandaluyong City
Tel. No. 706-4616 Fax No. 535-8160
E-mail: dohcfhdmm@yahoo.com

The Center for Health Development-Metro Manila (CHD-MM), through the GOP funds (FY 2012) intends to apply the sum of **Two Million Eight Hundred Eighty Six Thousand Pesos (Php 2,886,000.00)** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) in payment for the following projects described/detailed in the Bidding Documents (TB):

Item	Contract	ABC
1	Procurement of Anti-Rabies Vaccine	₱ 1,000,000.00
2	Procurement of Anti-Snake Venom	₱ 1,000,000.00
3	Procurement of Anti-Tetanus Serum	₱ 500,000.00
4	Procurement of Anti-Rabies Immunoglobulin	₱ 1,000,000.00
5	Procurement of Anti-Snake Venom Immunoglobulin	₱ 1,000,000.00
6	Procurement of Anti-Tetanus Immunoglobulin	₱ 1,000,000.00
7	Procurement of Cell Bags	₱ 500,000.00
8	Procurement of Cell Bags	₱ 500,000.00
9	Procurement of Cell Bags	₱ 500,000.00
10	Procurement for the Provision of Computer Rental	₱ 1,000,000.00
11	Procurement of Various Hospital Equipment	₱ 22,000,000.00
12	Procurement of Medicines Mostly Vitamins and Minerals	₱ 500,000.00

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act (RA 9184).

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from CHD-MM Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat's Office and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below (Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City) during working hours from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday to Friday starting **October 17, 2012**.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders from the address below upon payment of a non-refundable fee on **October 17, 2012 (Wednesday) P 10,000.00** (Ten Thousand pesos) in cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The CHD-MM will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on **October 24, 2012, 9:00 AM** at the SEC Conference Room, Mezzanine Floor, SEC Building, which shall be open to all interested parties who have purchased the Bidding Documents.

Bids must be delivered on or before **10:00 AM of November 7, 2012** (Wednesday) **for the procurement of Supply of Labor, Materials and Technical Expertise for the Proposed Renovation of Cash (SF) Room SEC Building**. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in Section 27.2 of the Revised IRR. Bids must be submitted in the form of a letter, in bold letter naming the bidding company duly assembled by the SEC.

Bid Number	Date	Time	Opening Time	Place
BID-2012-0001-001	November 7, 2012	9:00 AM	9:00 AM	Conference Room, Mezzanine Floor, SEC Building, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City
BID-2012-0001-002	November 7, 2012	1:00 PM	1:00 PM	Conference Room, Mezzanine Floor, SEC Building, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

The Center for Health Development-Metro Manila (CHD-MM), through the GOP funds (FY 2012) intends to apply the sum of **Two Million Eight Hundred Eighty Six Thousand Pesos (Php 2,886,000.00)** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) in payment for the following projects described/detailed in the Bidding Documents (TB):

The CHD-MM now invites experienced, from eligible Bidders for the proposed Contract of various goods. Delivery of the GOODS is required by **90 days** after NTP. The description of each item is specified in Section VI of the Bidding Documents (TB).

Item	Contract	ABC
1	Procurement of Anti-Rabies Vaccine	₱ 1,000,000.00
2	Procurement of Anti-Snake Venom	₱ 1,000,000.00
3	Procurement of Anti-Tetanus Serum	₱ 500,000.00
4	Procurement of Anti-Rabies Immunoglobulin	₱ 1,000,000.00
5	Procurement of Anti-Snake Venom Immunoglobulin	₱ 1,000,000.00
6	Procurement of Anti-Tetanus Immunoglobulin	₱ 1,000,000.00
7	Procurement of Cell Bags	₱ 500,000.00
8	Procurement of Cell Bags	₱ 500,000.00
9	Procurement of Cell Bags	₱ 500,000.00
10	Procurement for the Provision of Computer Rental	₱ 1,000,000.00
11	Procurement of Various Hospital Equipment	₱ 22,000,000.00
12	Procurement of Medicines Mostly Vitamins and Minerals	₱ 500,000.00

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act (RA 9184).

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138.

Interested bidders may obtain further information from CHD-MM Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat's Office and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below (Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City) during working hours from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday to Friday starting **October 17, 2012**.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders from the address below upon payment of a non-refundable fee on **October 17, 2012 (Wednesday) P 10,000.00** (Ten Thousand pesos) in cash. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The CHD-MM will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on **October 24, 2012, 9:00 AM** at the SEC Conference Room, Mezzanine Floor, SEC Building, which shall be open to all interested parties who have purchased the Bidding Documents.

Bids must be delivered on or before **10:00 AM of November 7, 2012** (Wednesday) **for the procurement of Supply of Labor, Materials and Technical Expertise for the Proposed Renovation of Cash (SF) Room SEC Building**. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in Section 27.2 of the Revised IRR. Bids must be submitted in the form of a letter, in bold letter naming the bidding company duly assembled by the SEC.

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

The CHD-MM reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

GRACE DOMINGO, MD, MPH
Center Director

(Sgd.) CARMEN C. CERVANCIO, MD, MPH
Bids Chairman

CHD-MM-12-10-2012

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DOLE-NCR Building, 901 Rodriguez Jr., Makati, Manila

INVITATION TO BID

1. The Department of Labor and Employment – National Capital Region, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites bids for the hereunder projects.

Name of Projects	Approved Budget of the Contract (PhP)	Price of Bidding Documents (PhP)
Procurement of Printer	1,000,000.00	1,000.00
Janitorial Services for CY 2013	1,716,057.60	2,000.00
Security Services for CY 2013	1,216,800.00	1,000.00

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.

2. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly Section II of the Instructions to Bidders.

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding in accordance with the Competitive Bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

4. Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizen in case of sole proprietorship or partnerships, or corporate organizations with at least sixty (60%) percent interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138.

5. Interested bidders may obtain further information from DOLE-NCR Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat's Office and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below (Rm-14, 2/Building-regular office hours from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday to Friday starting **October 17, 2012**.

6. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be secured by interested Bidders at the address below from on **October 17, 2012** upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents. The method of payment shall be in the form of cash or Manager's Check payable to BID & AWD.

7. The pre-bid conference shall be held at the **Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS)** and the website of the DOLE-NCR, provided that bidders shall purchase the said bidding documents together with the submission of their bids.

8. The DOLE - NCR will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference** at its Interested Bidders on **October 26, 2012 at 2:00 p.m.** at the Conference Room, 2nd Floor, DOLE-NCR Building, Rodriguez Jr., Makati, Manila.

9. Bids must be delivered on or before **10:00 AM of November 12, 2012** (Monday) **for the procurement of Janitorial, Janitorial and Security Services**. Bids submitted on **November 12, 2012** shall be delivered at the Conference Room, 2nd Floor, DOLE-NCR Building, 901 Rodriguez Jr., Makati, Manila. All Bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in **10 Days 20**.

Bid opening shall be on **November 12, 2012 (Monday), 10:00 AM** for the **procurement of Janitorial, Janitorial and Security Services** at the DOLE-NCR-ADO Conference Room. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders or their authorized representatives. Late bids shall not be accepted.

10. The DOLE-NCR reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder(s).

11. For further information, please contact:

MR. NOEL I. FERIS
BAC Secretariat
DOLE-NCR Bldg., 901 Rodriguez Jr., Makati, Manila
Tel/Fax No.: 8890-8474 / 8896-3962
www.ncr.dole.gov.ph

(Sgd.) **ATTY. JOEL P. PEREZ**
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee

BAC-NCR-10-16-2012

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National Capital Region
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Manila, Manila
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NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National Consultant/s	Position
PARTY ELECTRONICS, G 4TH AVE., Brgy. Kaunlaran, Cubao, Quezon City	Seungyeob Shin Korean	Supervisor
HANJIN CONSTRUCTION, INC. Unit 3404-07, Philippine Stock Exchange Centre, Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Jongyeon Kim Korean	Marketing Manager
JAST ARCHITECT MANAGEMENT SERVICES, INC. 29F Unit 2901 Rose Bldg., Northgate Cyberzone, Filinvest, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Wajeon Kwon Korean	Trade Director/ Manager of Mall Works
HUNTECH KBA, INC. Unit 611 KG Avenue Bldg., JP Rizal St., Poblacion, Makati City	Hongwon Kim Korean	Main Developer and Computer Engineer
HUNTECH KBA, INC. Unit 611 KG Avenue Bldg., JP Rizal St., Poblacion, Makati City	Sangwon An Korean	Team Supervisor
D-PLUS (OVERSEAS) INC/ TUTORIAL CENTER, INC. 3rd-4th Floor Federal Center Plaza B., Pedro Gil cor. Taft Ave., Ayala Avenue, Barangay Malate, Manila	Young Eun Lee Korean	Manager
L'OREA (PHILIPPINES) INC 12F One Rock Square Bldg., Ortigas cor. Garnet Rd., Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Woo Bong Chung Korean	Business Process Specialist
L'OREA (PHILIPPINES) INC 12F One Rock Square Bldg., Ortigas cor. Garnet Rd., Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Jung Eun Yang Korean	Business Development Specialist
JUSTYNE INC Unit 1104 Prime Tower, Apokon cor. Quezon Ave., Tagum City	Soo Kim Marjorie Weihang Taiwan	Store Coach Chief Cook
HANJIN RAIL CAPITAL LIMITED Unit 1104 Prime Tower, Apokon cor. Quezon Ave., Tagum City	Ying Ma Chinese	Customer Language Customer Service Officer
HANJIN RAIL CAPITAL LIMITED Unit 1104 Prime Tower, Apokon cor. Quezon Ave., Tagum City	Meiqin Liu Chinese	Customer Language Customer Service Officer
HANJIN RAIL CAPITAL LIMITED Unit 1104 Prime Tower, Apokon cor. Quezon Ave., Tagum City	Xiaohua Ma aka Sandy Liu Cambodian	Cambodian Language Customer Service Officer
HANJIN RAIL CAPITAL LIMITED Unit 1104 Prime Tower, Apokon cor. Quezon Ave., Tagum City	Lina Indonesian	Bahasa Indonesian Language Customer Service Officer
CONFIDENCE PHILIPPINES SERVICE CORPORATION 10F Tektite Star Bldg., 1799 Ayala Ave., Ugong Norte, Mandaluyong City	Kanwalpreet Pasricha Indian	Sales Leader
ACCENTURE CREDIT TECHNOLOGY SYSTEM (PHILIPPINES) INC. 3rd Floor Accenture Corporate Center, 1214 Triangle Drive cor. 10th Ave. E Rodriguez, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City	Vikram Mohan Upadhyay Indian	Account Manager
PUBLIC AIR SECURITY CORP. INC. 3/F A Soriano Building, Quezon Ave. cor. Edsa, Quezon City, Metro Manila	Sung Woo Kim Korean	Area Head
CORPORATE EXECUTIVE OFFICES, INC. 3rd Floor Accenture Corporate Center, 1214 Triangle Drive cor. 10th Ave. E Rodriguez, Bonifacio Global City	Sanjay Lavanian Malay Australian	Vice President
ASIAN PHARMACEUTICALS CO. INC. 6/F Unit 604, Alberto St., Brgy. San Isidro, Makati City	Jung Hwang Choi Taiwanese	Managing Director

Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National Consultant/s	Position
CONNECTED PHILIPPINES SERVICES CORPORATION 6/F Ledesma Building, 6780 Ayala Ave., Legaspi Village, Makati City	Raghavan Pattabiraman Raghunath Indian	Team Leader
KOMATSU MALAYSIA (PHILIPPINES) INC. 2/F Cavalier Bldg., 4800 Ortigas Ave., Brgy. Greenhills, San Juan City	Masatoshi Ito Japanese	Executive Chef
RAMESH SINGH CATERING AND TRADING INC. 112 F. Manalo St., Kalayaan, San Juan City	Rajbir Singh Indian	Assistant Food & Beverage Manager
MERCK PHILIPPINES INC. 14/F Net Cube Center, Bonifacio, cor. 9th St. Fort Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City	Gilad Ramot (Ramot) Israeli	Manager
MERCK PHILIPPINES INC. 14/F Net Cube Center, Bonifacio, cor. 9th St. Fort Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City	Nitish Rastogi Indian	Group Leader
NEPTE NET SOLUTIONS, INC. Unit 705 A Pearl Bldg., 163 C. Benitez St. cor. R. Pascual St., Brgy. Bata, San Juan City	Moses Dave Adapoyo Nigerian	Marketing Manager
JAN AUDIOVISUAL 861 Bonifacio St. Brgy. 666 Zone 69, Ermita, Manila	Ghulam Jan Pakistani	Manager
AMPHENOL INC. Unit 1101, 11/F Tytana Centre, Road 20cor. Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Rajasingham Alex Kumar	Customer Service Manager
SUN LIFE SHARED SERVICES (ASIA) INC. 11/F Sunlife Building, 1 C5 Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City	Vikash Kumar Sinha Indian	Team Manager (Operations)
CONSULTANT TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS PHILIPPINES, INC. Unit 1106 Prime Orion Philippines Bldg., 6th Ave. cor. 30th St., Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City	Amar Bhanu Prakash Indian	Team Manager
CONSULTANT TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS PHILIPPINES, INC. Unit 1106 Prime Orion Philippines Bldg., 6th Ave. cor. 30th St., Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City	Chandrakanth Reddy Indian	Technical Lead
MARK ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES (PHILIPPINES) INC. 6/F LT Peñaranda Center, 6915 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Bel-Air Village, Makati City	Ashwini Kumar Japanese	Line Technician
CTC PHILIPPINES INC. 10/F Tektite Star Tower, Ayala Ave. cor. 30th St., Bonifacio Global City	Chengde Jin Chinese	Project Manager

If you have any information objection to the above mentioned applications please communicate with the Regional Director.

(Sgd.) ALAN S. MACALINO, CESO III
Regional Director

To search if there are vacancies, and for employment guidance services, visit the Public Employment Service Office (PESO) in any city or municipality or log on to www.dole.gov.ph

(NRA-Nov. 17, 2012)

NHA marks 37 years

COMMITTED TO PROVIDE sustainable and responsive housing service to the homeless low income earners and calamity-stricken Filipinos across the nation, the National Housing Authority (NHA) celebrated its 37 years of existence yesterday, October 11, 2012.

NHA's anniversary theme, dubbed "Kwento ng NHA: Buto ay Kaisang-tangi," is a month-long event intended for its employees who painstakingly and unstintingly carry on the Authority's mandate for more than 3 decades now, that is to provide housing programs and assistance to our fellow brothers and sisters who as well need socio-economic opportunities to augment their living.

To make this anniversary meaningful, the public service itself will give back to NHA employees through the participation of other government agencies like the National Statistics Office (NSO) and the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI). These agencies will assist NHA personnel to expedite their services on availing vital documentary requirements, clearances and passports, that will save the time and toil love employees from hassle.

Various activities are lined up for the celebration such as thanksgiving mass, blessing and inauguration of some facilities such as the gym, road works, executive lounge, board room and other offices.

Other programs include launching of NHA Pabloan Program and awarding of the recently established fund-assist sports winners.

Conferment of awards, acknowledgment of heroes, silver and gold awardees, creation of loyalty awardees, including special incentives awards, individual (staff and operations and corporate awards) will highlight the NHA anniversary celebration.

NHA was organized as government-owned and controlled corporation by virtue of Presidential Decree 757 in July 31, 1975. It has generated 962,238 housing production and assistance involving regular programs composed of resettlement, slum upgrading, sites and services development, core housing, medium rise housing and other housing assistance.

In all, since 2002, NHA access projects in 77 provinces, 134 cities and 333 municipalities.

NHA General Manager Atty. Chito M. Cruz reiterates that he will do his very best to Fulfill WAO mandate with the cooperation of NHA officials and employees. "I do not pretend that I have all the answers here in NHA, neither do I pretend that I possess all the expertise in NHA, I will not be able to Fulfill WAO mandate without the support of our fellow brothers if I don't have the support of all of you, to help me extend my hand to you and join me in building and fulfilling the mandate of NHA," said Cruz.

MCT Events holds Funtaz-TECH Sale on November

MCT Events Management signs Memorandum of Agreement with BCBG Eastland, TPC Iconx and Tyzid PC for partnership in the first P.I.Mas TECH Warehouse Sale and Entertainment Technology Expo to be held at the New Megatent in Libis, Quezon City from November 30 to December 2, 2012.

The 3-day event will showcase a great variety of products and services, namely: Mobile Phones, Digital Imaging Gear, Laptops and Computer Devices, Software, Gaming Equipment (PC, consoles, and mobile-based), Wireless and Convergence Devices, Emerging Technology and Technology Related Services, Content Providers, Audio Equipment, High Definition and Home Theater Systems, Hybrids Technology and Home Appliances and Security Merchandises.

Aside from the great deals, visitors will also benefit from the free seminars and other exciting activities that will be hosted by Tyzid PC, TPC Iconx, Game Developers Associa- tion of the Philippines (GDAP) and International Game Developers Association (IGDA). We are conducting these free seminars for utmost executive experience for technology enthusiasts under one roof," MCT VM Mike Tengko said. EDAP is the largest association of game enthusiasts in the country.

MCT Events is a premiere management company that specializes in designing, packaging, and implementing exclusive high- impact corporate and social events. They now produce and manage their own extensive fairs and expos such as the Megabrands Sale and the Rewards Warehouse Sale.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jonathan Rivera or Ms. Dane Dela Cruz of MCT Events Management through (+63 2) 6490 376- 83/(+63 2) 999-2895/ 900-3546 or email them at jonathan.rivera@gmail.com/ mct.center@gmail.com.

(Seated L-R), TPC Iconx Director for Events Carlo G. Lamentad, Eastland vice president and Marketing Group head Ms. Angela C. Hirsan, MCT Events Management general manager Mike C. Tengko, TPC Iconx Group Head and Tyzid PC site administrator Reyner A. Manuel, (Standing L-R) TPC Iconx director for Technical Photography Reyco S. Maiquinan, MCT Events Sales Manager Jonathan Rivera, TPC Iconx director for Graphic Arts Fernando A. Calio, Eastland program manager Eunice Evasco, Eastland AVP for Partnerships Irene Tejio, MCT Events Marketing Manager Irene S. Dela Cruz., and TPC Iconx project coordinator Rose G. Lamentad.

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STOCKMARKET Quarterly

Editor Raul D. Pangalangan
Associate Editor Carrie S. Mañosa

Bulls plot PSEi climb to 6,000 next year

'Certainty' makes PH market stand out in period of global volatility

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE LOCAL stock market is on a roll for the fourth year in a row but the Philippine growth story —a rarity in this period of a global downturning—is just as compelling that investors are turning bullish to conquering uncharted territory. The next big milestone of 6,000 for the main share Philippine Stock Exchange index is likely to be breached next year, according to stock experts.

The bulls see a lot to feed on, notwithstanding some concerns on political calculations. An above-trend growth rate supported by resilient remittances and business process outsourcing (BPO), low unemployment that boosts corporate expansion and a rise in earnings as well as a further eased bank maximum money. The market also looks up to additional investments such as a spending boost from the upcoming mid-term elections in 2013, faster implementation of the public-private partnership (PPP) projects and a prospective sovereign credit-rating upgrade that could bring in not just more foreign portfolio inflows but also attract much-coveted foreign direct investments that by so long have evaded what said is be called the "rich man of Asia."

"Whereas a lot of lessons have sacrificed the Philippines is overvalued, if you look at the growth rates of individual stocks, it's still quite cheap, considering it's trading below its PBV, so there's an index to account," said stock market veteran Wilson Sy, a director at Philequity Management. Sy said PBV (price earnings to growth) is the more appropriate way to look at valuation as one rather than simply price to earnings (P/E). "We were not growing (in the past) the way we're growing this very unusual," he said.

Based on Philequity's estimate, the local stock market is trading at 16.7x expected P/E for 2012 and 16.1x for 2013. The ratio means that investors are paying "x" times the amount of money the market is making for a given period.

For Sy "certainty" is what makes the Philippines stand out during a period of global volatility. "There's more certainty in the growth of Philippine stocks that are listed compared to other countries like Korea and Taiwan, which are very reliant on exports. And our market is really driven by consumer demand, so we can have more certainty on the growth of these companies," he said.

Philequity is targeting an index level of 5,600 for the end of this year and 6,000 to 6,200 for 2013, supported by a 16-percent projected growth in corporate earnings next year.

CLSA Asia-Pacific Markets head of research Alfred Ty was the rollout of PPP projects, prospective mergers and acquisitions (M&As) and continued recession rate regime driving the main index toward 6,000 in 2013. Earnings growth in 2013 is seen by CLSA at 15 percent, better than the 10-percent earnings number consensus growth for 2012.

Ty said it appeared that the PPP program was "showing some signs of life," adding that as much as seven contracts worth a total of

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

STOCKMARKET*Quarterly*

Business Stock Third Quarter 2012

STOCK	INDUSTRY	PRICE (in pesos)			PRICE CHANGE (in pesos)			VOLUME (in shares)			MARKET CAPITALIZATION (in pesos)	
		1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	2012	2011

Stronger corporate PH rising from ashes of BW scandal

By Dhani Lopez
Contributor

THE STORY rise and fall of BW Resources Corp.'s stock prices may now be a thing of the past, but 10 years after the charging of the culprits, the biggest stock scandal in the country remains a lifelong reminder of the importance of good corporate governance.

Market participants say the issues unfolded by many small investors from BW stock price manipulation and insider trading, and the resulting loss of market confidence, have helped shape the way companies are directed and controlled at present.

"More than 10 years after BW, I think corporate governance has improved quite a lot," said Augusto Dato, president of Dato Asset Management Inc.

"There were no monitoring tools in place then, and the market was not very large as it is the whole market was trading only one stock. Nowadays, even if you are a very good winner or a wild price fluctuation, it's not concentrated on one stock," Dato said.

The BW scandal centered on the sharp price swing in the company's stock price in October 1998. As one point, BW was the most actively traded company in the local bourse, eclipsing even blue-chip and perennially active Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. Its stock price leaped to P187, to $2.6-billion transaction level at the start of the year, before plunging to P95.50, triggering the suspicion of regulators. In March 2002, BW majority shareholder Dante Tan and his ex-accused were charged of stock manipulation and insider trading.

The corporate governance problem in the country today could be the product of the companies' efforts to build confidence, or the outcome of the demands of the increasingly involved investing public who are wary of another BW scandal, analysts said. Either way, regulators are taking notice.

"Corporate governance is an emerging economic trend in the Philippines," said Antonio Garcia Jr., president of Capital Markets Integrity Corp., an independent equity research firm from the market regulation unit of the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Although the quality of corporate governance in the country may not be as advanced and well-developed by comparison to those of other markets, there is a marked improvement in how industries perceive corporate governance. More and more companies are becoming aware of the importance of observing good corporate governance practices as they see the value it brings to the company by increasing investor interest and confidence in the market," Garcia said in an e-mail.

The quality of corporate governance is measured in various ways. CLSA Asia Pacific Markets, in collaboration with Hong Kong-based Asian Institute of Corporate Governance Corporate Governance Watch, last month came out with its latest CG Watch report, which scores based on five core areas: discipline, transparency, independence, responsibility and fairness.

In her report, CLSA said the Philippines' overall score improved by four points this year from its 2010 survey, although it was identical to the country's score in its 2007 survey.

"Basically, the Philippines is only back to where it was," the report said. "Hardly a cause for undivided applause in an area where right perhaps, but we agree that the Aquino administration's making progress on much-needed governance reforms, including tackling government corruption and improving transparency and accountability."

Revised rules

The key question is in the minds of many is the market is whether the improvement in corporate governance in the Philippines is sustainable.

Concerned efforts among government regulators, companies and organizations are boosting reforms which, in turn, lift optimism that there will be improvements in governance.

In 2009, the Securities and Exchange Commission issued the Revised Code of Corporate Governance, which provided for the creation of an audit committee "to ensure accurate and complete financial disclosures" and "to oversee the conduct of risk controls." To date this year, it issued the guidelines for the self-assessment of the audit committees' performance.

The SEC is requiring the submission of detailed audited financial statements to include the shareholders, one and per-share of segregated retained earnings or justification for non-distribution of dividends. It is also studying the scope and degree of its coverage, as well as who and how many corporate officers will be required to disclose their salaries and bonuses.

Greater awareness

Other changes are incorporated in the revised implementing rules and regulations of the Securities Regulation Code, such as the requirement for the registration statements and reports and certifications of credit rating agencies, and integrated rules to prevent price manipulation via publication of false or misleading information in the investing public.

For certain companies, some of the requirements of good governance are already second nature.

"I think there's genuine awareness especially since the government is also promoting good governance in the public sector," said Cory Quirino, head of investor relations office at SM Investments. "But I think awareness of good corporate governance is still concentrated on the bigger corporations. There are many requirements involved and sometimes is hard for smaller companies because it requires more resources."

Moreover, even among larger companies, full disclosure doesn't always come easy. Quirino noted that some corporations declare only the remuneration of their board on a collective basis, as individual disclosure may entail security risk.

Still, the general view is that unlike in the past, minor transgressions can be more detected and rectified while fraud can now be detected long before it is exposed.

Aside from the policies initiated or implemented by the SEC, trading watchdog CMEG is pushing for further strengthening of the trading rules by redefining the offenses and providing for appropriate penalties for violators.

Recently the CMEG had monitored unusual trading of shares of agricultural producer Central Cebu Cane Corp., prompting it to issue sanction letters to five trading participants. Among the violations sanctions issued was a breach of the "know-your-customer" rule requiring brokers to check on the capability of their clients to engage in stock transactions. There was a suspicion that the clients were merely nominees of the real perpetrators of the suspected Cebu stock manipulation.

The CMEG—which has a self-regulatory organization status and is empowered by the SEC to "police" erring brokers—can impose sanctions ranging from reprimanding to a P500,000 fine.

Brokers are aware that being under the radar of regulators is the price they have to pay to restore investor confidence.

"We almost wiped us out. To maximize the confidence of investors, you have to show that you are complying with regulations," said a local broker. The broker continued, though, against overzealous acts that could stifle the business.

The broker also added that the existing regulations is not focused on the trading participants while the customers behind questionable trades often get away scot-free.

New breed of investors

While revised regulations and tighter monitoring have helped ensure and trading participants to shape up, changes in the market dynamics are also behind the improved governance.

In the past, only foreign brokers and a handful of local ones had the capability to sustain well-equipped research units. Nowadays, many local brokers produce their own research and conduct their own company due diligence, forcing fund firms to be more transparent and accountable.

"I guess a lot of companies now feel that corporate governance is one important aspect of corporate life," said Phil Morris's Garcia. "Given that there are so many analysts, both foreign and locals, knocking at their doors and asking questions, companies are careful not to give inconsistent answers, or there would be doubt on the accuracy of their disclosures."

Moreover, the presence of institutional players applies a lot of difference.

"There are a lot more institutional participants that are participating. If you go back 20-30 years ago or 12 years ago or 10 years ago, you had only a handful of institutions. Now you have a more robust institutional investing community as well as more mature individual investors, so it creates a virtuous circle of sort," Dato said.

The SEC said it continued to oversee regular compliance of broker-dealer firms with securities laws. Its market regulation department is studying new practices and methods, here and abroad, that may result in new violations of securities laws, or facilitate their commission.

"The SEC will certainly not be the wife who is the last to know when it comes to those matters," SEC Chair Teresita Herbosa said in a recent speech.

"While the SEC, although undermanned and under-resourced, will not shirk from monitoring, random or otherwise, and conducting audits, both regular and special, the responsibility of being a good, law-abiding citizen is primarily the issuer's, which responsibility is likewise required from all other market participants," she added.

Bulls plot PSEi climb to 6,000 next year

From page B1

$2.16 billion might be exceeded under this framework by 2013. "M&A activity should continue to spice up the market and those are likely to be in the areas of property, banking, consumer, infrastructure and power," Oyson said.

The fresh monetary stimulus by the US Federal Reserve and the country's new credit rating should also keep investor mood fine, Oyson added, another "biggest" for the stock market, adding despite strong foreign outflows from overseas Filipinos and BPO investors. Locally, CLSA sees a reduction of the reserve requirement on banks by regulators a possibility, thus giving more room for banks to finance the demands of the expanding economy.

Nisha Aktar, head analyst at DA Wealth Securities, said it was indeed "more fun" to invest in the Philippines these days, with the PSEi likely rising to new highs of 5,700 to 6,000 within this year or the first quarter of 2013.

The DA Wealth recommendation to be a safe haven amid volatility in external markets stemming from the debt crisis in Europe and slowing global growth particularly in the world's largest economies—US, China and India. Furthermore, the local market has continued to outperform the region on its resiliency and positive fundamentals in the government continues to lay the groundwork for sustained economic growth in the next years to come," she said.

In the first semester, the Philippine gross domestic product grew 6.1 percent on yearly basis, higher than 5.4 percent in the same year-ago and much faster than the 4.9 percent local growth rate during the nine-year Arroyo administration.

Most pointed up the factors that converged to support the local market's climb to further heights: Low interest rates, with analysts saying the Philippines is not known during this fourth quarter, coupled with foreign inflation, improved regulation for banking and real estate segments, primarily to provide a more sound growth and avoid "bubbles", thus attracting steady volume consumer spending by the 10 million overseas Filipinos (OFWs) and the "demographic dividend," bulk of which 9 projects expected to be rolled out in 2013 estimated at P112 billion, a record P2-trillion national budget for next year, anticipated tourism boom from the new gaming hub, the Manila Bay Resorts City complex and new infrastructures to enable this, ongoing expansion by developers, as well as increased efforts by the Department of Tourism as a mainland theme by the current administration; possible investment grade for the sovereign credit by 2013. DA Wealth places the current rating of one to two notches below investment grade, and resilient consumer growth through overseas workers and burgeoning BPO sector.

DA Market sees recessions as "buy" opportunities, specifically from any market negative shock or increased market volatility in external markets.

In a joint research on vulnerability in the Philippines equities market by First Metro Investment Corp. and the Dialectic of Asia and the Pacific, October is one of the best months to start accumulating. "The odds of generating positive returns are higher when buying in October and holding it for two-to-five months," PMIC-DBAP said, adding another factor in the joint publication. "The Market Call." The joint study covered the period from 1988 to the present.

"Compared to a month ago, we are now more comfortable in increasing exposure to Philippine stocks as we continue to see more room for the PSEi to extend its rallies recently, PMIC-DBAP said, noting that the major liquidity-easing measures recently taken by the US Federal Reserve and the European Central Bank (ECB) and Bank of Japan (BoJ).

On Sept. 13, the US Fed announced that it would purchase an additional $40 billion worth of agency mortgage-backed securities a month to further stimulate the world's biggest economy. Shortly before that, the ECB also stepped up its asset buying program to inject liquidity into the euro zone. Key central banks across the world are on a monetary easing or "dovish" mode, raising expectations that the local counterpart will continue to follow such push.

"On the local front, fundamentals remain on healthy. Macroeconomic outlook remains bright, earnings expectations are robust and reasonable is positive. All these shape our more constructive outlook for the fourth quarter," the PMIC-DBAP research said.

9-month review

"Instead of searching for bargain fillers on stocks, investors should focus on profitability and profit momentum. In general, we believe upside potential is easier to justify for companies with PEG (price/earnings to growth) ratios below 1 times and the 'demographic dividend,' bulk of BPO projects expected to be rolled out in 2013 estimated at P112 billion, a record P2-trillion national budget for next year, anticipated tourism boom from the new gaming hub, the Manila Bay Resorts City complex and new infrastructures to enable this, ongoing expansion by developers, as well as increased efforts by the Department of Tourism as a mainland theme by the current administration; possible investment grade for the sovereign credit by 2013. DA Wealth places the current rating of one to two notches below investment grade, and resilient consumer growth through overseas workers and burgeoning BPO sector.

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Conglomerates top picks for 4th quarter

THE PSEi98 the stock market index goes, the more challenging it is to resist the bargains. But as interest rates continue to fall and investors remain awash in cash, the stock market continues to explore uncharted territory. Indeed, a lot of investors have made money from the stock market this year, and as prospects for the Philippines remain bright, investing in growth stocks seems to be the overriding theme.

Based on a quarterly poll of stock experts by The Inquirer's Dorie Dantes, conglomerates—destined as a good proxy to the Philippine economic growth story—and consumer oriented stocks emerged as the favorites for the fourth quarter.

These are the top three most compelling stock picks from the perspective of our base respondents:

Paul Joseph Garcia
Senior vice president, head of Odyssey Funds
Bank of the Philippine Islands

1. Ayala Corp. (AC)

"Ayala continues to enjoy strong performance from its core subsidiaries, with consolidated earnings of P6.1 billion in the first half of 2012, a 25 percent rise year-on-year. AC's property businesses should profit from the prevailing low interest rate environment, while banking operations benefit from intermediation opportunities as private and public capital spending continues over the next few years.

Ayala Land's first half per-sales grew by 50 percent, as revenues rose by 18 percent to P25 billion and net income hit P4.3 billion, up 38 percent year-on-year. MPI's first half net income grew by 52 percent year-on-year to P6.4 billion on a 9 percent quarter-on-net interest income and a 51 percent rise in non-interest income. The bank's total loan book expanded by 17 percent as the first contacted, on a 19 percent improvement in small and medium enterprise borrowing, while consumer lending and top-tier accounts rose by 17 percent and 15 percent, respectively. Globe Telecom's first half core net income rose by 2 percent to P5.7 billion, with total subscriber base growing 12 percent to 34.7 million. The company is currently undertaking a $700-million network upgrade to bolster its 3G and 4G capabilities.

AC remains one of the largest conglomerates in the country, with market capitalization of P258.7 billion and P989 billion in assets. It has embarked on an aggressive expansion mode, with $1 billion allocated for various power and infrastructure projects. We consider it a strong contender for big-ticket PPP (public-private partnership) projects such as the P62 billion LRT1 extension and the P20 billion Cavite-Laguna Expressway. It has entered into partnership agreements with Metro Pacific Investments, Alaska Equity Ventures, A. Brown & Co. and the Ortigas family. The company's 4.3 percent index weight in march past it as the radar screen for foreign funds wanting exposure to the Philippine growth story."

2. Puregold Price Club

"Puregold stands to benefit from the steady growth in GDP (gross domestic product) per capita, as the second largest grocery retailer in the country with sales of P48.9 billion in 2011, and 124 stores across 39 cities and 28 municipalities. Membership in the company's "Tindahan ni Aling Puring" (TNAP) transfer program has risen from 30,000 in 2005 to 370,000 in 2011. About 91 percent of TNAP members have their own sari-sari stores, accounting for 15 percent of the total sari-sari store market."

Same store sales growth for 2012 is seen at 9 percent for 9M2012 and 13 percent for 4Q8 Membership Shopping. The company will roll out 30 new stores this year, followed by 35 outlets in 2013. Management has guided toward a 50- percent sales growth, which we expect to result in a 16-percent rise in earnings per share. The Philippines presents significant upside moving forward, with "modern trade" accounting for only 22 percent of the $99-billion retail industry. Studies have shown that the bulk of the transactions will take place at see markets and neighborhood sari-sari stores. In comparison, more mature economies such as Thailand have a 40:60 modern-traditional retail mix, suggesting further upside for the company. Positive earnings revisions and its inclusion in the MSCI Small Cap Index helped the stock outperform the Philippine composite index at an increase of 67.3 percent year-to-date."

3. Megaworld Corp. (MEG)

"Megaworld is a real estate firm with a market capitalization of P62 billion. It results as an attractive valuation of 0.3x P/B compared to Ayala Land, Robinsons Land and SM Developments Corp., which trade at 3Bx, 1.7x, and 1.1x, respectively. MEG has launched five residential projects this year and plans to expand its gross office leasable area to 500,000 square meters to keep pace with the steady BPO (business process outsourcing) sector growth. Among listed property firms, it arguably has the largest exposure to the outsourcing sector, which is expected to generate $25 billion in revenue by 2016. The Bonifacio Phoenix Association of the Philippines expects the industry to grow by 10 per cent yearly.

MEG is trading at a 30-percent discount to net asset value with price targets of P0.75 per share. It was one of the top foreign buys in the third quarter with some $.9 million in net foreign buying."

Reuben Mark Angeles
Head of research
First Metro Securities Brokerage Corp.

"Our theme is 'go cyclical.' Given the robust economic growth outlook in the Philippines, we like stocks that can leverage the 'local growth' arena. Ayala Corp., GT Capital Holdings and SM Investments are our top picks for the fourth quarter in our view, the conglomerates of these firms have direct and indirect exposures to the country's growth arena."

1. Ayala Corp. (AC)

"We increase it to make it 8Pi should improve the company's net asset value. But in the near term, the uncertainty of funding the acquisition will result in downward price pressures. We view this as an opportunity to increase stake in AC. Its main income contributors—Ayala Land Inc., Bank of the Philippine Islands and Manila Water—are seen posting healthy earnings in the second half of 2012."

2. GT Capital (GTCAP)

"On a trailing P/E" perspective, GT Cap looks undervalued compared to SM and AC. It trades below 10x, while SM and AC trade above 20x P/E. Its components—Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co., Toyota Philippines, Global Business Power, BDO and Federal Land—can leverage the growth in consumption, industry and services."

3. SM Investments (SM)

"We expect SM Retail and SM Prime Holdings to fare well in the coming holiday season. Its components have good exposure to the Philippines' strong growth sectors. Leverage to consumption and services are visible through SM Retail, Banco de Oro, Citibank, SM Investments Corp. and SM Prime."

Nisha Aliser
Head analyst
DA Market Securities

1. Semirara Mining (SCC)

"The commissioning of Calaca Unit 1 on Aug. 1 increases SCC's capacity from 345 megawatts to 550 MW. It serves as your supply contract signed with Meralco executes sales of 200 MW in 413 MW and the expansion of the energy business by another 300 MW by 2014 and another 300 MW within the next five years. Further exploration of coal reserves assures sustainability and growth in earnings.

For 2012, net income is seen rising by 7 percent to P6.4 billion from P6 billion in 2011 and by 33 percent year-on-year to P8.5 billion in 2013 on better power and coal margins. We recommend a buy with a price target of P254. There's a possible upgrade due to expansion plans."

2. Puregold Price Club (PGOLD)

"PGOLD is viewed as a pure retail play, particularly in an economy noted for its robust consumer spending. Earnings are driven further by faster-than-expected execution of management plans, which is seen to continue amid its aggressive and strategic expansion.

The firm revised its sales growth forecast for this year from 21 percent to 16 percent to P58.5 billion as it increased the number of stores it will open this year from 25 to 31. Penetration-expected execution reflects the company's aggressive nature and capability to achieve its target of 200 stores by 2015 (from 130 end-2012).

Proceeds from a corporate notes offer are in line with the company's expansion plans, organically and through acquisitions. Following the recent consolidation of S&R stores and the acquisition of Puyo supermarkets, the firm's growth strategy is proving successful as it achieves economies of scale, ensuring margins and improving bottomlines.

Its earnings are posting double-digit growth. For 2012, profit is seen rising by 29 percent to P3.7 billion from P2.84 billion in 2011. It is seen rising further by 42 percent to P5.9 billion in 2013. We recommend a buy with a price target of P94, with possible upgrade due to expansion plans."

3. East West Bank (EW)

"East West Bank is an aggressive expansion player, growing its network organically and through acquisitions. Expansion will help it achieve economies of scale while it maintains its consumer and corporate mid market focus.

Having won 145 restricted area branch licenses from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, the bank plans to set up 100 branches in 2012, 75 of which will be in restricted areas. In 2013, it will set up another 100, to bring the total to 350 by 2014, as it aims to be the fifth largest bank in terms of network. As of the first half of the year, EW had 238 branches, with 60 percent of which located in Metro Manila and 40

CONTINUED ON A2

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